



Box 1206
344 - 2nd Street North
Beausejour, MB R0E 0C0
Ph 204.268.6500
Toll Free 866.444.5559

December 21, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian/Caregiver:

Manitoba Education has asked school divisions to share information with families of children in Kindergarten through to Grade 6 with regard to rapid antigen test kits being made available for voluntary use.

Sunrise School Division has not received any rapid antigen test kits at this time, but would like to be proactive and inform families about the anticipated distribution of these kits once received. The division has not been given a date by which the kits will arrive and does not anticipate receiving kits prior to the holiday break.

A signed permission form must be received by the school division in order for a student to receive a rapid antigen test kit. Each student participating in this voluntary initiative must have a separate permission form completed. The required permission form is the last page of this information package. An electronic version of the form will be on each school website as well as the school division website at: www.sunrisesd.ca.

Signed paper copies may be returned with your child to their school. Signed electronic copies can be e-mailed to testkit@sunrisesd.ca. Kits will be sent home with your child in January when they return to school unless you indicate that you would like to arrange pick up of the kit when schools reopen in January.

Following all public health protocols and recommendations is still the best way to stay safe throughout this pandemic, so please stay vigilant with your actions over the holiday season.

The division will continue to communicate any new information or changes over the holidays through phone messages on School Messenger and through the use of website posts over the holidays.

Thank you for your continued support during the beginning of this school year. Wishing you and all your loved ones a happy and healthy holiday season. Stay safe and stay well.

Cathy Tymko
Superintendent/CEO
ctymko@sunrisesd.ca
1-204-268-6543



Education

307-1181 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3G 0T3
T 204-945-0435 F 204-945-8303
www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12

December 21, 2021

TO: Parents/Caregivers

The Government of Manitoba is making rapid antigen test kits available to students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 who attend school in Manitoba in an effort to provide peace of mind to parents as classes resume in January.

Please note: your child's participation in this rapid antigen testing is voluntary. Students are not required to participate in order to return to the classroom.

While vaccination, mask use and reducing contacts are still the best tools for managing the spread of COVID-19, making rapid tests available will help identify cases as students return to school.

It also is important to remember we all need to continue to follow public health guidance that has been effective in keeping the pandemic under control. This includes staying home when sick, getting tested if you have symptoms, washing your hands frequently and wearing a face covering as required. Vaccination remains the most effective protection against the virus and its variants. Ensuring that children and youth are vaccinated will provide a strong level of protection and help to keep schools open and as safe as possible.

Please read the important information below prior to using the rapid antigen test kit.

When to Use the Rapid Antigen Screening Kit:

- For families who participate, it is recommended that parents/caregivers conduct one test every three to four days with their child, beginning the day they receive their test kit and continuing until all five tests have been used. If parents are not able to get a testing kit before the break, testing can also begin in January. One test is to be completed every three to four days, continuing until all five tests are used. Both approaches support a safe return to classes.
- Rapid antigen screening test kits are only to be used when a child is asymptomatic (i.e. does not have any symptoms of COVID-19 and has not had any exposure to a confirmed case of COVID-19).
- Anyone with symptoms or who is identified as a close contact of a case should still get PCR testing at a provincial testing site. Rapid antigen tests should not be used as a substitute for PCR tests for people with symptoms or for people who are close contacts of cases.
- Under provincial public health orders, these tests cannot be used for youth age 12 to 17 who are being tested to play sports. Those tests must be reviewed and confirmed by a pharmacist.
- When you receive the kit, store it at room temperature (not in the fridge or freezer) and away from direct sunlight.

Using the Take-Home Rapid Antigen Test Kit:

- The rapid antigen test should be performed using anterior nasal swabbing (per the package insert, as approved by Health Canada).
- Parents/caregivers may administer the tests if they volunteer to participate.
- Please follow the instructions provided with this letter.
- **Important note:** Parents or caregivers may choose to administer this test on children who may need help (i.e., younger children).

What to do after your test:

- You will know the outcome of the test within 15 minutes. If test results conducted so far are negative, your child may attend school as usual. Even if your child tests negative, they should continue to follow to all public health guidance, such as physical distancing and masking.
- A positive result on a rapid antigen test is considered a preliminary positive and a follow-up PCR test is necessary- taken at a provincial testing site, ideally within 48 hours. Children should isolate themselves until the result of the PCR test is known. If the PCR test is positive, public health officials will provide further direction.

Thank you.

Original signed by

Christina Moody
Assistant Deputy Minister
Manitoba Education

Enclosure

- c. Honourable Cliff Cullen, Minister of Education
Dana Rudy, Deputy Minister or Education

COVID-19 Rapid Testing for Schools

The Manitoba government is providing a tool for parents to provide peace of mind as students return to class. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to test their children with this rapid response kit to screen for COVID-19. Participation is voluntary.

Access to rapid antigen tests are another layer of protection to help reduce the chance of closures and potential surges in the new year. This guide will give you important information on how to take the test and what to do with the results.

If your child has any symptoms or if they've been exposed to somebody with COVID-19 over the holidays, please visit a designated testing location. You can find a full list here: manitoba.ca/covid19/testing/locations

Some important things to remember:

- Manitoba Health and Seniors Care has validated the kits are safe for use.
- They can be used at home by parents/guardians.
- Participation is voluntary for families that want to participate.
- For families who take part, it is recommended that parents conduct one test every three to four days, beginning the day they receive their test kit and continuing until all five tests have been used.
- If parents are not able to get a testing kit before the break, testing can also begin in January. Parents should conduct one test every three to four days and continue until all five tests are used. Both approaches support a safe return to classes.
- When you receive the kit, store it at room temperature (not in the fridge or freezer) and away from direct sunlight.
- During the test, don't eat, drink or touch your face in any way. Make sure your testing area is free from foods, drinks and clutter in the event of a spill.
- We recommend using the anterior nasal swabbing method, which has been approved by Health Canada.
- To watch a video on how to perform this test at home, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F7m8L6Tq498>

Officials recommend using the anterior nasal swabbing method. Those directions are included in the package insert.

Please Note: These products have Health Canada's approval, and when used according to directions, they do not pose a risk to the health of Manitobans. If not used properly (e.g., if the materials get in your eyes or mouth), rinse with plenty of water for 15 minutes and contact your healthcare provider or Health Links at 1-888-315-9257. If the material accidentally touches your skin, wash area with plenty of water.

COVID-19

How to give your child an anterior nasal swab test with the BTNX Rapid Response™ COVID-19 Rapid Antigen kit

Public Health Factsheet

December 2021

Manitoba 

Please note: If your child has COVID-19 symptoms, we recommend going for testing at a provincial testing facility. For a full list of locations, visit <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/testing/locations.html>

- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water before you begin. Get your child to wash their hands too.
- Your kit comes with a test cassette, a sterile swab that looks like a Q-Tip, a tube and stand, a nozzle with a filter and a plastic container with testing liquid inside. You will also need your phone or watch to set a timer.
- Before you start, make sure everything is at room temperature and your testing area is free from clutter. Take the test cassette out of the pouch and set it down. Place the tube into the tube stand.
- Open the container of testing liquid by twisting the top. Pour all of the liquid into the tube and ask your child to gently blow their nose into a tissue.
- Open the sterile swab package, making sure the tip of this swab doesn't touch anything. Tilt your child's head back and insert the swab 1.5 centimeters inside your child's nostril. Be very careful not to insert it more than two centimeters.
- Move the swab in a circle inside of the nostril for at least five seconds. Then, press your child's nostril down against the swab and spin the tip for five more seconds. Now, using the same swab, repeat the same thing in the other nostril.
- Put the swab inside the tube and tilt the tube so the swab is completely covered by the liquid. Mix it really well, occasionally squeezing the tube against the swab 10 to 15 times.
- Place the tube with the swab back on the tube stand and set a timer for two minutes. When the time is up, pinch the tube and squeeze as much liquid as possible out of the swab. Then throw the swab into the garbage.
- Place the nozzle onto the tube, turn the tube over and squeeze three drops of the solution into the spot marked "S" on the test cassette. Set your timer for 15 minutes.
- When the timer goes off and the result is positive, you'll see two lines – one line next to the "C" and one line next to the "T" on the test cassette. If your child is positive, take them to get a test at a facility near you. Find a location at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/testing/locations.html>
- If the result is negative, you'll only see a line next to the "C". Remember, a negative test result does not rule out COVID-19. All public health guidelines must continue to be followed.
- Finally, if something went wrong with the test, you won't see a line at all or may only see a line on the "T". If this happens, throw the test away and start over.
- Tests are to be administered each three to four days until the Kit (five tests) is completed.

COVID-19

COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test

Participation Request

December 2021

Manitoba 

Request to Participate in the Voluntary Take Home Rapid Antigen Test Program

I, _____ would like my child, _____

who attends _____ school, to receive a take-home rapid antigen test kit for the purpose of testing my child in the Voluntary Take Home Rapid Antigen Test Program in January 2022.

By signing this form, I agree to administer the rapid antigen test in accordance to the instructions and will only administer the rapid antigen test on my child who is eligible to participate in the Kindergarten to Grade 6 Voluntary Rapid Antigen Test Program.

Personal information on this form is being collected by Sunrise School Division under the authority of s. 36(1)(b) of The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) as the information relates to and is necessary for the delivery and administration of the Voluntary Take Home Rapid Antigen Test Program. The personal information is protected by the protection of privacy provisions under Part 3 of FIPPA. If you have any questions about the collection, contact ctymko@sunrisesd.ca

Signature

Date