

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.