

September 23, 2021

Memorandum to: Directors of Education
Secretary/Treasurers of School Authorities

From: Nancy Naylor
Deputy Minister

Subject: **Mandatory Immunization Disclosure Policy - Rapid Antigen Testing Updates – Extension of Pharmacy Access**

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to implement the mandatory immunization disclosure policy. The purpose of this memo is to provide updates on rapid antigen screening component of this policy.

As you know, in accordance with the instructions issued by the CMOH, schools and child care programs must require that individuals who are not fully vaccinated submit to regular rapid antigen screening. Individuals subject to testing requirements **must provide verification of negative test results at least two times per week** as an added measure to protect schools from the risk of COVID-19.

Rapid antigen screening kits have already been shipped to school boards and certain schools through the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services (MGCS) distribution network. Some school boards have requested additional testing kit supply to align with the vaccination attestation information collected. The Ministry has worked with MGCS to deploy tests for those boards.

Once received, school boards/schools are to make these testing kits available for those attesting to not being fully vaccinated. It is recommended that existing testing kits be used for those staff who have met attestation requirements.

Staff who have not attested are expected to complete testing twice weekly. To ensure a more accurate number of testing kits required, school boards with high numbers of staff who have not yet attested, should work to receive responses. If your school board does require additional testing kits to align with attestation data, please contact SCO.CSE@ontario.ca and EDUProcurementReporting@ontario.ca and provide details on the additional number of testing kits required to support immediate implementation. Back-up supply is not to be ordered at this time.

As you are aware, the government authorized pharmacies to provide publicly funded COVID-19 rapid antigen testing services effective Tuesday, September 7, 2021 until

Tuesday September 21, 2021. **To ensure access to testing for those school boards that may have a shortage of testing kits, access to pharmacy testing is being extended for eligible staff until October 1, 2021.** Per instructions provided on September 3rd, please ensure staff have valid ID and a letter from employer.

Child care licensees

In addition, there are approximately 900 child care programs located in or near schools that are to receive testing kits directly from the school/board. A list of these child care licensees has been provided to applicable boards. Please ensure that when your school/board is distributing testing kits, they are provided to the specified child care program.

Thank-you for your efforts to comply with these requirements, and your on-going efforts to keep students, staff and our communities safe.

Sincerely,

Nancy Naylor
Deputy Minister

- c: Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario
- Executive Director, Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACÉPO)
- Executive Director, Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC)
- Executive Director, Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA)
- Executive Director, Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)
- Executive Director, Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE)
- Executive Director and Secretary-Treasurer, Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO)
- General Secretary, Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA)
- General Secretary, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO)
- General Secretary, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF)
- Chair, Ontario Council of Educational Workers (OCEW)
- Chair, Education Workers' Alliance of Ontario (EWAO)
- Co-ordinator, Canadian Union of Public Employees – Ontario (CUPE-ON)
- Executive Director, Association des directions et directions adjointes des écoles franco-ontariennes (ADFO)
- Executive Director, Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO)
- Executive Director, Ontario Principals' Council (OPC)