

September 3, 2021

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

From: Nancy Naylor
Deputy Minister

Subject: **Mandatory Immunization Disclosure Policy - Rapid Antigen Testing Updates**

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to prepare for the implementation of the mandatory immunization disclosure policy announced by the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) on August 17, 2021. The purpose of this memo is to outline planning to date on the 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.

Based on planning to date, and subject to further confirmation, the following provides an overview of the proposed testing approach for schools, with additional details to come at a later date.

Rapid antigen screening kits are being deployed in most cases to school boards and certain schools in limited circumstances through the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services (MGCS) distribution network with a target of having all supplies received by schools and school boards by September 20th, 2021. Once received, school boards/schools are to make these testing kits available for those attesting to not being fully vaccinated and to confirm a negative test result prior to the employee/visitor entering the workplace.

Until such time as boards receive their supply of testing kits (on or around September 20, 2021), the government is authorizing pharmacies to provide publicly funded COVID-19 rapid antigen testing services effective Tuesday, September 7, 2021 until Tuesday September 21, 2021. Please see appendix for list of participating pharmacies. This will involve temporary free access to rapid antigen testing in the pharmacy setting for those individuals subject to the employer's policy (i.e. those that are attesting to not being fully vaccinated). Individuals subject to the employer policy will need to show valid ID and a letter from employer. A sample letter is attached.

Work is also underway on a digital solution for verifying testing results in partnership with [Creative Destruction Lab Rapid Screening Consortium \(CDLRSC\)](#). The Thrive app allows for simple and straightforward tracking and verification of rapid testing results. Individuals can submit photo evidence of their rapid antigen test results for verification by their employer (if testing at home) or organizations can input verification directly (for onsite rapid testing). The app will also allow exportation of records of verification for record keeping purposes.

Please visit the [Creative Destruction Lab Rapid Screening Consortium \(CDL-RSC\)](#) website for more information on this app. Further information will be shared on how your organization can access this app.

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

Nancy Naylor
Deputy Minister

Attachments:

- Sample employer letter to present in pharmacy settings

- c: Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario
 - Executive Director, Ontario Public School Boards Association (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)