

COVID-19 School Testing Information

Monitoring and testing will increase for the reopening of schools and throughout the school year. Enhanced monitoring, flexible universal testing options and focused efforts in schools will help protect our children, teachers, school staff and all residents from COVID-19.

The proactive measures include:

- **priority testing** for teachers and school staff;
- **targeted testing** across school divisions; and
- **Information for parents** on what to do if a child tests positive.

Priority Testing for Teachers and Staff

Teachers and staff will be prioritized for testing.

Teachers and school staff are encouraged to be tested before returning to school and frequently during the school year. This testing will be voluntary, but is encouraged by public health officials. Local Medical Health Officers can provide advice to teachers and school staff on the frequency of testing.

Targeted Testing and Monitoring in Schools

Students will have the option of participating in **voluntary testing** in schools with parental consent.

Schools will be selected based on factors such as population density and specific grade levels. If communities experience a surge in infection rates, schools in those communities will be prioritized for testing.

Testing, with parental consent, may be offered within schools during public health visits for routine childhood vaccinations and/or if there is a cluster of COVID-19 cases within a school.

Information and Resources

Parents will receive detailed instructions with testing options inside and outside of school settings. This information will indicate when and where testing will take place, how results will be received and how to follow-up or find resources in the event of a positive test result.

Public health officials will work with schools and parents to educate students about testing for COVID-19 and infection prevention.

FAQs

What happens if someone shows symptoms of COVID-19 at school?

Students, teachers and staff should never go to school with COVID-19 symptoms.

However, if a student, teacher or staff member displays [COVID-19 symptoms](#) while at school, the guidelines are as follows:

1. They will be asked to wear a non-medical mask and self-isolate in a separate room until they are able to go home. A parent or guardian will be notified that their child is ill;
2. A COVID-19 test is recommended. Without a negative test result, a child can return to school 48 hours after symptoms resolve. Call HealthLine 811 or your family physician to arrange testing; and
3. All areas used by the individual will be identified and immediately cleaned.

Can a student or faculty member return to school without receiving a COVID-19 test?

If a student or staff member does not have a COVID-19 test, they can return to school 48 hours after symptoms resolve. This will help protect all members of the school community. Public health officials will advise when it is possible to return following a positive or negative result.

What happens if someone at school tests positive for COVID-19?

If there is evidence that a child or staff member was infectious while in school and there were specific children or adults who were in close contact, public health will provide medical guidance and information.

What happens if a parent or sibling tests positive for COVID-19?

Anyone living in the same home would be considered a close contact.

People who meet the criteria of being considered a close contact must self-isolate for 14 days from the date of last exposure and self-monitor for symptoms. More information on self-monitoring can be found on saskatchewan.ca/self-monitoring.

If you develop symptoms of COVID-19, call HealthLine 811 for directions for testing.

If someone tests positive for COVID-19 at school, will the entire school have to get tested and quarantine?

Students will be cohorted within classrooms to reduce the number of contacts they have during the school day. This will reduce the risk of transmission in a school community.

Only individuals identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive will have to self-isolate and monitor for symptoms for 14 days.

Non-close contacts must self-monitor for symptoms.