

COVID-19 Rapid Testing for a Licensed Early Learning and Childcare Facility FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

What happens when my child is identified as a close contact of a COVID-19 positive case at a licensed early learning and childcare (ELC) facility?

- Public Health and the ELC facility Operator work together to identify children who had close contact with the person who tested positive (case).
- The ELC facility Operator will notify families by email, voice mail or letter if their child has been identified as a close contact.
- Specific instructions will be given to families about their child's [isolation](#) and testing.
- If eligible for rapid point of care testing (POCT) to return to childcare earlier, ELC facility Operators will give parents pick-up instructions for their child's rapid POCT kits.

How long will those identified as a close contact have to stay home?

- Unvaccinated children who are close contacts must isolate as soon as parent is notified.
- If participating in rapid POCT program, the child must be symptom-free and obtain two negative results to return to childcare. To continue attending, they must test negative daily and have no [symptoms](#).
- Children under 2 years of age, and children who have a COVID-19 positive household member are not eligible for the rapid POCT program. If not participating in rapid POCT program, child must [isolate](#) at home for 14 days after last exposure. If symptoms develop, the parent will [book a COVID-19 PCR test online](#) for their child.

How do we use the rapid tests?

- Test kits will contain instructions. A [sample video](#) is also available.
- Testing must be supervised by a parent or guardian. It is important for parents to ensure testing is done correctly, and the results are negative before sending the child to childcare or school.
 - Child does a test at home as soon as rapid POCT kit is received.
 - Do a second test the next morning.
 - If both rapid tests are negative, and child does not have symptoms, they may return to childcare.
 - Children must remain symptom-free and test negative every day to continue attending childcare.

How long will we need to test at home?

- Daily rapid testing is required until Day 14 after the child's last exposure to the case.
- Daily testing includes weekends and holidays.
- Public Health may extend the testing period if additional cases are identified at the ELC facility.
- Public Health can change the rapid POCT program and require isolation, if directed by the Medical Officer of Health.

What happens if my child's rapid POCT result is positive?

- If your child's rapid POCT result is positive, they must stay home, self-isolate and [book a COVID-19 PCR test online](#). Call 811 if additional assistance is required.
- When scheduling PCR testing, indicate that your child's POCT test was positive:
 - 1) When entering patient profile, at the question "Are you a member of one of the following groups?" please indicate "**School- student or staff**" and the name of your child's school if they are a student.
 - 2) Fill out other information as needed. Follow all directions given by Public Health.
 - 3) The school or ELC facility should also be contacted for the tracking of absences and the COVID-19 tracking process.

My child is fully vaccinated but was identified as a close contact. What should we do?

- Children who are fully vaccinated and have no symptoms can return to school or an Early Learning and Childcare facility unless different direction is given by Public Health.
- They must self-monitor for 14 days after the last date of exposure to the case. If one symptom develops, they must stay home, isolate and [book a COVID-19 PCR test online](#).

My child has only received one dose of the vaccine. Are they required to take the rapid tests?

- Yes. Children who have only received one dose of the vaccine are not considered fully vaccinated.
- They will follow the same rapid POCT screening process as unvaccinated children.

Do I have to prove my child tested negative? If so, how?

- Parents do not need to send proof of negative daily rapid POCT to the ELC facility.
- In the Mandatory Order, individuals and/or families must complete the rapid POCT daily screening as directed, and report results truthfully.
- If a rapid POCT result is positive, the individual must immediately isolate, [book a COVID-19 PCR test online](#), and follow all guidelines and directions of Public Health. Fines can be given for failing to comply or untruthful reporting of results.

Do I need to schedule a day 10 PCR test?

- For children who participate in daily rapid POCT, a routine Day 10 PCR test is not needed. PCR testing is only needed if they have a positive rapid test result, develop symptoms; or are directed by Public Health to get tested.
- If not participating in rapid POCT program, a child must isolate at home for 14 days after their last exposure to the person who tested positive. PCR testing is needed for routine Day 10 testing, and if symptoms develop. The parent will [book a COVID-19 PCR test online](#) for their child.

My child has not been identified as a close contact, but our ELC facility is closed for an operational day and our child has still been told to isolate. Why?

- Outbreak management decisions and contact tracing are made on a case-by-case basis by Public Health.
- Families should be prepared to isolate for periods of time throughout the coming year as directed by Public Health.

What happens if my fully vaccinated child develops COVID-19 symptoms?

- If one [symptom](#) develops, the child must [isolate](#) and [book a COVID-19 PCR test online](#).

Parents with questions regarding COVID-19 Rapid Testing in Schools and Early Learning and Childcare facility are able to contact us directly - 1-833-901-1963 option 3 or EDPE.EECD.COVID19@gnb.ca