

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

# COVID-19 screening by rapid tests at school in the event that symptoms appear during the day

To avoid any further class closures, we must remain vigilant to ensure that students continue to receive their educational services at school. For this reason, **your co-operation in consenting to have your child tested for COVID-19 at school is important.**

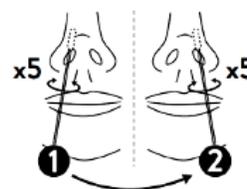
However, if your child shows **symptoms of COVID-19**, it is vital that they stay home. A test should then be administered at a designated screening centre. Visit the **COVID-19 Screening Platform** to find the screening centre nearest you and book an appointment. The **self-assessment tool** is also available to help you make the best decision in case of any doubt.

## COVID-19 Screening at School

Public health authorities are currently distributing rapid tests to preschools and elementary schools in your area. These tests will be available in targeted schools to allow them to quickly determine if a student who develops symptoms during the day tests positive for COVID-19. These schools will then be able to implement the necessary measures, if required. The rapid tests supplement the other prevention measures in place to limit the risk of outbreaks in schools.

COVID-19 screening at school involves testing a child who develops symptoms during the day. This test will be carried out by a school staff member designated by the school administration and trained for this purpose.

The Panbio test by Abbott will be used for this screening. It is free and will be carried out during class hours. It only takes a few minutes and the result is available in 15 minutes. The test consists in taking a shallow nasal swab (as opposed to the more invasive tests used in testing centres) using a device that looks like a cotton swab (see image below). There are no side effects, only a slight discomfort that may be felt during the swabbing.



Please note that children will not be tested if they do not present COVID-19 symptoms.

In the event that your child develops symptoms related to COVID-19 during the day and you have not given your consent, your child will not be tested. As provided for, they will be isolated and you will be contacted to come pick them up.

## Voluntary Participation in Screening

**Please fill out the form provided by your school, sign it and return it to your child's teacher** to let them know if you agree to have your child tested at school. Your consent is valid for the whole school year.

Participation in COVID-19 screening is voluntary. You may refuse to have your child tested or withdraw your consent at any time. Regardless of your decision, it is important to follow all public health recommendations and continue to follow **basic health instructions** and those in effect at your child's school.

## Screening Results

The screening result and any accompanying recommendations will be communicated to you promptly by the school administration.

- **Negative result:** The child can stay in class, wearing a mask. You must remain vigilant. If your child's symptoms persist, take them to a designated screening centre to have a laboratory test performed.
- **Positive result:** The child is isolated. You will be contacted to bring your child home and have them tested at a designated screening centre.

## Confidentiality of Information

All personal information collected will be kept confidential at the school and at the Direction de santé publique in the area where your child's school is located.

For more information, please contact a public health official in your area.