



February 10, 2021

Mobile Rapid Testing – Q&A

QUESTION	ANSWER
What is the rapid test? How is it different than the test that you get at a testing Centre (e.g., Brewer)?	<p>The rapid test (Panbio) is a screening test for COVID-19 and involves swabbing the nasal passage but is less invasive than the laboratory based (PCR) test that is completed at assessment centers. The rapid test swab is inserted for 5 seconds. The results are provided on the same day of testing.</p> <p>The Public Health Nurse conducting the test will provide teaching on the testing and what should be expected.</p>
Why is the rapid test important? Why now?	<p>Identifying individuals with COVID-19 will help to reduce spread within your household and community. It is important to note that low community transmission is a key factor in keeping schools open.</p> <p>Further, recent statistics are revealing that the number of individuals being tested at the assessment centers in Ottawa are decreasing. So, Ottawa Public Health (OPH) will be using the mobile testing clinics as a form of COVID-19 surveillance in Ottawa.</p>
Is there a reason why the mobile rapid testing clinic is being organized in this specific neighborhood?	<p>Mobile testing clinics are being offered in numerous schools around the city. This weekend, the clinic is being organized in this neighborhood.</p>
Are there particular public health needs that are not addressed by existing testing centres (e.g. Heron, Brewer)?	<p>As a Public Health measure, mobile testing clinics are being held to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission in school communities. This measure is supplementary to existing testing centers. OPH still advises that individuals adopt COVID-wise measures, including mask use, hand hygiene, physical distancing, and testing if symptomatic.</p>
Are the rapid test results immediate?	<p>The results of the rapid test are available within 4 hours. You will be directed to isolate at home.</p>
What happens after the test? Do we isolate?	<p>Public Health Nurses will be available at the Mobile Testing Clinic as a resource and provide further instructions for you and your household.</p> <p>For individuals who are tested and do not have symptoms, they will be directed to self-isolate at home for at least 4 hours.</p>
If COVID-19 is not detected in my rapid test result, are there any additional steps my household and I need to take?	<p>If you do not receive a call from OPH after 4 hours, your rapid test result did not detect COVID-19, and you can discontinue self-isolation.</p> <p>For you and your household, please continue to complete and follow the direction provided in the OPH screening tool before entering school, work, or the community.</p>
If the rapid test results is positive, what additional steps do I need to	<p>If an individual's rapid test result is positive, the individual and their household members will be called and asked to return to the clinic for a PCR test to</p>



<p>take? Why is a second test required?</p>	<p>confirm the rapid test results, as the sensitivity of the PCR test is higher. You will receive the results of the lab test within 24-48 hours. You and your household members will need to self-isolate at home until the PCR test results are known. If you have any further questions regarding your PCR test results, you may contact an OPH Public Health Nurse via 613-580-6744 for further information.</p>
<p>Who should go for testing this weekend?</p>	<p>Mobile testing clinics are a public health measure to help detect COVID-19 in schools and communities and reduce the risk of widespread COVID-19 transmission. All individuals who attend the school and members of their households are encouraged to participate in the testing, regardless if they have COVID-19 symptoms or have been exposed to an individual with COVID-19.</p>
<p>Is the rapid testing recommended by OPH? If all members in my household are symptom-free, is there any advantage to getting tested?</p>	<p>Often, school-aged children who have been infected with COVID-19 may present with mild or no symptoms. To control the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health of your household and community, it is important to detect and reduce the spread of the virus early through screening, testing, contact tracing, and self-isolation.</p>
<p>If my child has a runny nose, will you test using a rapid test or a laboratory-based test (PCR)?</p>	<p>Individuals with one or more symptom of COVID-19 and/or have been recently exposed to an individual with COVID-19, will receive the rapid testing and PCR testing. Individuals will be directed to isolate at home. Further instructions will be provided to you at the time of testing.</p>
<p>As a parent, if my child does not attend the mobile rapid testing clinic with me, can I still receive a rapid test?</p>	<p>The mobile testing clinic is open to all staff, students, and household members. The clinic is prepared for up to 350 tests per day. However, if the clinic reaches testing capacity, individuals will be advised to return the next day for testing (if applicable) or suggest alternative testing options.</p>
<p>Where can I get more details about the mobile rapid testing clinic?</p>	<p>Please contact your child's school principal to receive OPH's mobile testing clinic letter. In the OPH letter provided by your child's school, you can find details on the Clinic location and hours. You may contact an OPH Public Health Nurse via 613-580-6744 for further information.</p>