



Special Focus: School-Based and Mobile COVID-19 Pop-Up Testing Clinics, April 2021

Update: May 7, 2021

Introduction

Since January 2021, Ottawa Public Health (OPH) has been collaborating with area school boards, the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) and regional testing partners to run school-based COVID-19 testing clinics. Results from January through March are available in the [Special Focus: School-Based COVID-19 Rapid Testing Clinics, updated on March 24, 2021](#). In April 2021, OPH began working with LifeLabs, the Ottawa Paramedic Service and community partners to expand testing capacity and improve responsiveness to community need. Testing sites are organized in school gymnasiums, at community centres or on an Ottawa Paramedic Service bus that serves as a mobile testing site. Due to high COVID-19 rates in the community, Ottawa schools transitioned to online learning as of April 19, 2021.

The purpose of the clinics is to improve access to testing and identify any students, staff or family members with COVID-19 infections. People who are symptomatic, asymptomatic, or high-risk contacts with connections to the invited schools are eligible for this targeted testing. The goal is to prevent COVID-19 spread at home, in our schools and in our community, and ultimately support in-person learning in Ottawa schools.

Clinics operated by CHEO use both the rapid antigen test (PanBio) and the lab-based test (PCR) collected with a nasopharyngeal swab. Clinics operated by Lifelabs use a lab-based test collected with a lower nasal swab for all clients.

At CHEO-operated clinics, rapid testing is used for those without any symptoms and without any known high-risk exposure and is used in conjunction with a confirmatory lab-based test for those with symptoms or a known high-risk exposure. While rapid testing allows for same day results, positive results require confirmation with a lab-based test.

If an individual tests positive on a rapid test, the individual and their household contacts are called to return for a lab-based test (if not already completed) the same day to confirm the rapid test result. These families are advised to stay home until confirmatory lab-based results are received. If confirmed positive, they are required to complete their isolation period. The individuals and their families are supported by OPH case managers. Additional social supports are also available on site.

Summary of April 2021 Clinics with Results to Date

Students, staff, and their families from a total of 171 unique Ottawa schools were invited to the testing clinics. See Table 2 below for the schools invited to each clinic. Schools

were selected in areas of the city that had seen higher rates of COVID-19 infections in recent weeks. The clinics were held on the dates as described below:

- April 10 and 11 at Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Hub
- April 12 at École secondaire catholique Franco-Cité
- April 13 at École secondaire publique Gisele-Lalonde
- April 14 at Sacred Heart High School
- April 15 at École secondaire catholique Pierre-Savard
- April 16 at Gloucester High School
- April 17 and 18 at École secondaire publique Omer-Deslauriers
- April 17 and 18 at Sir Guy Carleton Secondary School
- April 21 at the Boys and Girls Club Ron Kolbus Clubhouse and Michele Heights Community Centre (Ottawa Paramedic Service mobile testing bus)
- April 24 and 25 at the Adult High School

In total, 3,261 individuals were tested for COVID-19, including 1,375 students. Twenty of the students tested positive. See Table 1 below.

Table 1. Test results from school-based and mobile COVID-19 testing clinics held on weekends in April 2021

Dates	Students Tested	Students Positive	Other Tested	Other Positive	Total Tested	Total Positive
April 10 and 11	460	9	604	4	1064	13
April 12	132	2	200	1	332	3
April 13	127	0	173	1	300	1
April 14	181	0	251	0	432	0
April 15	86	3	123	3	209	6
April 16	80	1	129	0	209	1
April 17 and 18 (Omer-Deslauriers)	84	1	98	0	182	1
April 17 and 18 (Sir Guy Carleton)	105	3	133	2	238	5
April 21	26	0	43	1	69	1
April 24 and 25	94	1	132	1	226	2

Note: Data are based on the actual number of tests completed. Other includes staff, family and community members.



Limitations

It is important to note that the rates of positive results at school-based and mobile testing clinics are not representative of asymptomatic infections in the larger student population for the following reasons:

- Schools in neighbourhoods with higher COVID-19 rates were targeted
- People self-selected whether to seek testing; those with risk factors for exposure to COVID-19 may have been more likely to present for testing than those who did not present for testing
- Testing was not limited to those who were asymptomatic but included those with symptoms and high-risk contacts of cases
- Test results include family members (some of whom may also be students) who were asked to come for testing as high-risk contacts because another family member tested positive at the school-based clinic.

Next Steps

OPH and its partners will continue to identify opportunities for school-based and mobile testing to facilitate access and reduce barriers for students, staff and their families to get tested at or near their school. OPH works closely with school administration, staff and school boards to ensure that families of students in these settings are provided all necessary information to participate in these events. The locations of school-based and mobile testing are not communicated publicly in advance, as testing is not open to members of the general public. In addition, planning is underway to pilot take-home lab-based test kits for use in students and staff.

As always, the Provincial [webpage](#) publishes information if anyone tests positive for COVID-19 related to a school setting. If there is a confirmed epidemiological link between two cases, this is considered an outbreak in a school and is listed on the OPH Daily COVID-19 [Dashboard](#) under the “Outbreaks” tab.

School-based and mobile testing is one more tool in our toolbox to support in-person learning. The most important tools to prevent transmission of COVID-19 are daily screening, staying home and getting tested when sick or when advised by OPH, mask wearing, isolation, physical distancing, physical barriers, hand hygiene, and cohorting in schools. OPH continues to encourage parents and students to screen every day for any symptoms of COVID-19, and to self-isolate and seek testing as per the [screening tool](#).

Table 2. Schools invited to the school-based or mobile testing clinics

Dates	Schools Invited
April 10 and 11	École élémentaire catholique Au Coeur d'Ottawa École élémentaire catholique Horizon-Jeunesse École élémentaire catholique Minto École élémentaire catholique Montfort École élémentaire catholique Sainte-Anne

Dates	Schools Invited
	Collège catholique Samuel-Genest École secondaire publique De la Salle École élémentaire publique Francojeunesse École Le Transit École élémentaire publique Mauril-Belanger École élémentaire publique Trille-des-Bois Carson Grove Public School Lady Evelyn Alternative Manor Park Public School Ottawa Technical Secondary High School Queen Elizabeth Public School Queen Mary Street Public School Robert E Wilson Public School Rockcliffe Park Public School Storefront School York Street Public School Assumption School Immaculata High School Our Lady of Mount Carmel School St Michael School (Ottawa) St. Brigid School St. Joseph Adult High School St. Nicholas Adult High School Ahlul-Bayt Islamic School
April 12	Alta Vista Public School Blossom Park Public School École élémentaire catholique Lamoureux École élémentaire catholique Marius-Barbeau École élémentaire catholique Sainte-Genève École élémentaire publique Marie-Curie École secondaire catholique Franco-Cité Featherston Drive Public School Hawthorne Public School Hillcrest High School Holy Cross School Pleasant Park Public School Roberta Bondar Public School St Patrick's High School St Thomas More Elementary School Vimy Ridge Public School Vincent Massey Public School
April 13	Avalon Public School École élémentaire catholique Arc-en-ciel École élémentaire catholique De la Découverte École élémentaire publique Jeanne-Sauvé



Dates	Schools Invited
	École secondaire catholique Béatrice-Desloges École secondaire catholique Garneau École secondaire publique Gisèle-Lalonde Fallingbrook Community Elementary School St Dominic Catholic Elementary School St Francis of Assisi Elementary School St Kateri Tekakwitha Elementary School St Peter High School Trillium Elementary School
April 14	École secondaire catholique Paul-Desmarais A Lorne Cassidy Elementary School Bridlewood Community Elementary School École élémentaire catholique Saint-Jean-Paul II École secondaire publique Maurice-Lapointe Frederick Banting Alternative High School Guardian Angels School Holy Spirit Elementary School Sacred Heart High School St Anne School St James Elementary School St Stephen School Westwind Public School
April 15	École secondaire catholique Pierre-Savard Berrigan Elementary School École élémentaire catholique Jonathan-Pitre John McCrae Secondary School Longfields Davidson Heights Secondary School St Cecilia Catholic School St Francis Xavier (9-12) Catholic School St Jerome Elementary School Steve MacLean Public School
April 16	Carson Grove Elementary School Collège catholique Samuel-Genest Colonel By Secondary School École élémentaire catholique Des Pins École élémentaire catholique La Vérendrye École élémentaire catholique Montfort École élémentaire publique Séraphin-Marion École secondaire publique Louis Riel Emily Carr Middle School Glen Ogilvie Public School Gloucester High School Henry Munro Middle School Le Phare Elementary School Lester B Pearson Catholic High School



Dates	Schools Invited
	Robert Hopkins Public School St John Paul II Catholic School St Michael Elementary School Thomas D'Arcy McGee Catholic School
April 17 and 18 (Omer-Deslauriers host)	École élémentaire catholique Laurier-Carrière École élémentaire publique Omer-Deslauriers École secondaire publique Omer-Deslauriers Agincourt Road Public School Carleton Heights Public School Manordale Public School Merivale High School Merivale High School (Intermediate) Sir Winston Churchill Public School W.E. Gowling Public School Frank Ryan Catholic Intermediate School St Andrew Elementary School St Pius X High School St. Augustine Catholic School St. Elizabeth Elementary School St. Gregory School St. John XXIII Catholic School St. Monica Catholic School St. Rita Catholic School
April 17 and 18 (Sir Guy Carleton host)	Collège catholique Franco-Ouest École Élém C d'enseignement personnalisé Édouard-Bond Terre-des-Jeunes École élémentaire publique Charlotte Lemieux École élémentaire publique Ottawa Ouest Bayshore Public School Bell High School Bell Intermediate School Bells Corners Public School Crystal Bay Centre for Special Education D. Roy Kennedy Public School Knoxdale Public School Lakeview Public School Pinecrest Public School Sir Guy Carleton Secondary School Woodroffe High School Dr F J McDonald Catholic Elementary School Notre Dame High School Our Lady of Fatima Elementary School St John the Apostle Elementary School St Rose of Lima Elementary School



Dates	Schools Invited
April 21	Bayshore Public School Crystal Bay Centre for Special Education Lakeview Public School Regina Street Public School Severn Avenue Public School Dr. F.J. McDonald Catholic Elementary School St Rose of Lima Elementary School St Paul High School Abraar School Al-Furqan School
April 24 and 25	École élémentaire catholique Au Coeur d'Ottawa École élémentaire catholique Sainte-Anne École élémentaire catholique Saint-Francois d'Assise École secondaire publique De la Salle École élémentaire publique Louise-Arbour Adult High School Cambridge Street Community Public School Centennial Public School Connaught Public School Continuing Education Devonshire Public School Elgin Street Public School FirstPlace/Reality Check Fisher Park Public School Glashan Public School Glebe Collegiate Institute Hopewell Avenue Public School Lady Evelyn Alternative School Lisgar Collegiate Institute Mutchmor Public School Urban Aboriginal Alternate Program York St Public School Assumption School Corpus Christi Catholic Elementary School Immaculata High School St Anthony School St Brigid School The Element

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