



## Special Focus: School-Based COVID-19 Rapid Testing Clinics

Update: March 24, 2021

### Introduction

Ottawa Public Health (OPH) is collaborating with area school boards, the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) and regional testing partners to run school-based COVID-19 rapid testing clinics. 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 keep our classes and schools open for in-person learning.

Both the rapid antigen test and the lab-based test are available on site. 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, the individual and their household contacts are called to return for a lab-based test (if not already completed) the same weekend 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 January, February and March 2021 Clinics to Date

Students, staff, and their families from a total of 156 unique Ottawa schools were invited to the testing clinics. Seventeen of the 156 schools were re-invited to a second testing weekend. See Table 2 below for the schools invited each weekend. Schools were selected in areas of the city that had seen higher rates of COVID-19 infections in recent weeks. The first eight clinics were held on the weekends as described below:

- January 30 and 31 at École élémentaire publique Gabrielle-Roy
- February 6 and 7 at Ridgemont High School
- February 13, 14 and 15 at École secondaire catholique Pierre-Savard
- February 20 and 21 at St. Patrick's High School
- February 27 and 28 at Maison de la Francophonie
- March 5, 6 and 7 at École secondaire catholique Béatrice-Desloges
- March 12, 13 and 14 at École secondaire publique Omer Deslauriers
- March 19, 20 and 21 at Gloucester High School

Over the course of the eight weekends, 8,005 individuals were tested for COVID-19. Of the 8,005 individuals tested, 3,315 were students (including asymptomatic students,

symptomatic students, and students with high risk exposures). Sixteen students tested positive over the course of the eight weekends. See Table 1 below.

**Table 1. Test results from school-based COVID-19 rapid testing clinics held on weekends in January, February and March 2021**

Weekend	Students Tested	Students Positive	Other Tested	Other Positive	Total Tested	Total Positive
January 30-31	165	2	92	3	257	5
February 6-7	48	6	127	8	175	14
February 13-15	781	1	1123	0	1904	1
February 20-21	409	0	595	0	1004	0
February 27-28	508	0	703	1	1211	1
March 5-7	583	0	835	0	1418	0
March 12-14	391	6	571	12	962	18
March 19-21	430	1	644	1	1074	2

**Note:** Data for January 30 to 31 and February 6 to 7 are based on the actual number of tests completed, while data for February 13 onwards are based on the number of people registered for tests. The number of people who registered for tests may overestimate the number of people tested by less than 5%.

### Limitations

It is important to note that the rates of positive results at rapid 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 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 testing are not

communicated publicly in advance, as testing is not open to members of the general public.

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.

As schools operate in-person in Ottawa, rapid testing is one more tool in our toolbox to keep schools open for 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 testing clinics**

<b>Weekend</b>	<b>Schools Invited</b>
January 30 and 31	Sainte-Bernadette Catholic Elementary School Gabrielle-Roy Public Elementary School Blossom Park Public School Sawmill Creek Elementary School Dunlop Public School Roberta Bondar Public School Vimy Ridge Public School St. Bernard School St. Marguerite d’Youville School
February 6 and 7	Ridgemont High School Brookfield High School Clifford Bowie Public School Charles H. Hulse Public School General Vanier Public School Marius-Barbeau Catholic Elementary School Marie-Curie Public Elementary School Lamoureux Catholic Elementary School
February 13, 14 and 15	Bernard Grandmaitre Ecole elementaire catholique Jean Robert Gauthier École élémentaire catholique Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau École secondaire catholique Pierre-Savard Jonathan Pitre Sainte Kateri Barrhaven Sud École élémentaire publique Michaëlle-Jean Adrienne Clarkson Elementary School Barrhaven Public School

Weekend	Schools Invited
	Berrigan Elementary School Cedarview Middle School Chapman Mills Elementary School Farley Mowat Elementary School Half Moon Bay Public School Jockvale Elementary School John McCrae High School Longfields Davidson Heights Secondary School Mary Honeywell Elementary School Crystal Bay Centre for Special Education Monsignor Paul Baxter Elementary School St Benedict Elementary School St Elizabeth Ann Seton Elementary School St Joseph High School St Luke (Nepean) Elementary School St Mother Teresa High School St. Cecilia Elementary School St. Emily Elementary School St. Patrick Elementary St. Andrew School
February 20 and 21	École élémentaire catholique Lamoureux École élémentaire catholique Marius-Barbeau École élémentaire catholique Sainte-Geneviève Franco Cite George-Étienne-Cartier École élémentaire publique Marie-Curie École publique Le Transit École secondaire publique L'Alternative Arch Street Public School Brookfield High School Canterbury High School Charles H. Hulse Public School Clifford Bowey Public School General Vanier Public School Hawthorne Public School Hillcrest High School Ridgemont High School Riverview Alternative School Robert Bateman Public School Vincent Massey Public School Holy Cross Holy Family Elementary School Prince of Peace St Francis Xavier Catholic High School St Jerome

<b>Weekend</b>	<b>Schools Invited</b>
	St Luke (Ottawa) St Patrick's High School St Thomas More Elementary School
February 27 and 28	Collège catholique Franco-Ouest École Élé 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 Regina Street Alternative School Severn Avenue Public School Sir Robert Borden High School Woodroffe High School Dr F J McDonald Catholic Elementary School Our Lady of Peace Elementary School Our Lady of Victory St John the Apostle Elementary School St Paul High School St Rose of Lima Elementary School Abraar School
March 5, 6 and 7	École élémentaire catholique Alain-Fortin École élémentaire catholique Arc-en-ciel École élémentaire catholique De la Découverte École élémentaire catholique d'enseignement personnalisé La Source École élémentaire catholique Des Pionniers École élémentaire catholique Notre-Place École élémentaire catholique Saint-Guillaume École secondaire catholique Béatrice-Desloges École élémentaire publique Des Sentiers École élémentaire publique Jeanne-Sauvé École secondaire publique Gisèle-Lalonde Avalon Public School Dunning-Foubert Elementary School Fallingbrook Community Elementary School Maple Ridge Primary School Sir Wilred Laurier High School Summerside Public School

Weekend	Schools Invited
	Trillium Elementary School Our Lady of Wisdom St Clare Elementary School St Dominic Catholic Elementary School St Francis of Assisi Elementary School St Peter High School St Theresa Elementary School
March 12, 13 and 14	École élémentaire catholique Jonathan-Pitre École élémentaire catholique Laurier-Carrière École élémentaire catholique Terre-des-Jeunes École secondaire catholique Franco-Cité École élémentaire publique Charlotte Lemieux École élémentaire publique Omer-Deslauriers École secondaire publique Omer-Deslauriers Agincourt Road Public School Bayshore Public School Carleton Heights Public School Manordale Public School Merivale High School Pinecrest Public School Sir Winston Churchill Public School Frank Ryan Catholic Intermediate School M.F. McHugh Education Centre - Crossroads at Frank Ryan Int. School St Pius X High School St. Augustine Catholic School St. Gregory School St. John XXIII Catholic School St. Monica Catholic School St. Rita Catholic School Abraar School Ottawa Islamic School Ottawa Torah Institute & Day School Redeemer Christian High School
March 19, 20 and 21	Collège catholique Samuel-Genest École élémentaire catholique des Pins École élémentaire catholique La Vérendrye École élémentaire catholique Montfort École élémentaire catholique Sainte-Marie École élémentaire publique Séraphin-Marion École secondaire publique Louis Riel Carson Grove Elementary School Colonel By Secondary School Emily Carr Middle School Glen Ogilvie Public School Gloucester High School

Weekend	Schools Invited
	Henry Munro Middle School Le Phare Elementary School Norman Johnston Secondary Alternative Program Robert Hopkins Public School Good Shepherd Catholic School Lester B Pearson Catholic High School St Brother Andre Elementary School St John Paul II Catholic School St Michael Catholic School Thomas D'Arcy McGee Catholic School

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