

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

# COVID-19 screening by rapid tests at school

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.**

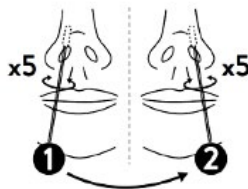
However, if your child shows **symptoms of COVID-19**, it is vital that they stay home and take a rapid test.

## COVID-19 Screening at School

Public health authorities have distributed rapid tests in all preschools and elementary and secondary schools in Québec. Rapid tests make it possible to quickly determine if a student who develops symptoms during the day is positive for COVID-19 and, if so, to implement the necessary measures. These 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 can be carried out by students themselves, depending on their age, or by a designated person trained for this purpose.

The test 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 screening 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.



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

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## Voluntary Participation in Screening

**If your child is under 14 years old, please fill out the consent 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 comply with the **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.

To find out when to self-isolate, here are the **guidelines in force** depending on your situation.