

December 10, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Due to rising case counts in the Fredericton and Upper River Valley Area (Health Zone 3), effective immediately, rapid test kits will be provided to all children in kindergarten to grade eight grade levels.

- In schools where a case of COVID-19 was confirmed by Public Health in the past 14 days or appears in the next 2 weeks, **ALL students**, regardless of their vaccination status, **must complete daily rapid testing** everyday until December 23, 2021. At that time, the situation will be reassessed, and further direction provided regarding next steps.
- In schools where a case has not been confirmed by Public Health in the past 14 days or in the next two weeks, this is a recommended measure; but not mandatory.
- Staff working with the grade K-8 grades are encouraged to do daily rapid testing, but this is not mandatory, unless identified as a close contact of a case.

Rapid testing will help to reduce onward spread of COVID-19 within students who have only recently become eligible for vaccination. Participating students and staff must follow the attached instructions for rapid testing.

- If they receive a negative rapid test result AND do not have any symptoms of COVID-19, they are able to attend school, childcare and community activities that day.
- If they receive a positive rapid test result, or ONE [symptom](#) of COVID-19 emerges, they will **isolate immediately** and [register online](#) or via 811 for PCR test at a Horizon or Vitalité Assessment Center.
 - If the PCR result is positive, continue to isolate and await further instruction from Public Health.
 - If the PCR result is negative, the student may return to school, childcare and other activities when feeling well and continue with the rapid testing program.
- In schools where this is mandatory, individuals who choose NOT to do daily rapid testing **must isolate at home** and not attend childcare, school, or community activities. If ONE [symptom](#) develops, they would [register online](#) or via 811 for a PCR test immediately. Their [isolation](#) ends when informed by Public Health.

Please note, this guidance does not apply to:

- Those who are contacts of a COVID case in their home, or to children less than 2 years old. These individuals must isolate and follow directions from Public Health.
- Those who had a lab-confirmed positive PCR result for COVID-19 within the past 90 days and have completed their isolation period. These individuals are not required to rapid test or isolate, as they will continue to test positive although they are no longer infectious. Reinfection is very unlikely at this time.

Rapid POCT kits provide a layer of protection for our community as our children continue to learn in-person. They should be combined with other protective measures, including: COVID-19 vaccination, mask wearing, hand cleaning, and keeping contacts constant and low in number. Please refer to the [GNB Winter Guidance](#) for additional information. Your ongoing support and cooperation are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Dr. Mark McKelvie
Regional Medical Officer of Health



David McTimoney
Superintendent of ASD-W