

Children's Services Rapid Testing Program

Information for kinship and foster caregivers

Rapid Testing

Alberta's government has expanded the availability of free rapid antigen testing kits to all Albertans. Through this program, Children's Services will provide rapid testing kits to interested ministry foster and kinship caregivers that have child(ren) in their home who meet the program criteria. Participation in this program is **not** mandatory.

Participation in the rapid testing program is optional and consent by guardian is required for the use of **any** rapid testing for children in care. Note: guardians can change their consent at any time. The same applies for your desired participation. This includes rapid testing kits accessed through Children's Services, school, pharmacy, Alberta Health Assessment Centres, etc

The Children's Services Rapid Testing program will be in place until the child is fully vaccinated or until the end of June 2022. The rapid testing program does not replace COVID-19 vaccination efforts.

The rapid tests provided by Children's Services are the Nasal Pan Bio test and are different from the ones available at select pharmacies and Alberta Health Assessment Centres.

The following information is to assist you with administering the Nasal Pan Bio test.

Administering Nasal Pan Bio Rapid tests

You will receive a package of 25 Nasal Pan Bio rapid test kits. For best results and as recommended by Alberta Health, rapid tests should be used twice a week (72 hours apart).

The number of children in your care will determine how often you need to connect with the child's worker/Kinship or Foster Care Support worker to replenish your stock. For example, the kits will last approximately 12 weeks if you have one eligible child in your care or 6 weeks if you have two eligible children in your care.

The test is a simple nasal swab that can be completed in 15 minutes in your home. For directions on how to administer the rapid test, please follow the manual that is included in the kit.

Although developed for employers, the following 6-minute training video is another resource that can assist you in administering the Nasal Pan Bio test. There are some things mentioned in the [video](#) that you will do differently; these are addressed below:

- <https://youtu.be/LEDib8tjhrI>

Please note:

- There are **two control swabs** in the kit that can be disposed of as they are only for control measures and are not to be used for nasal swabbing.
- If you are testing on more than one child, **mark each child's name** on the back of the test so you know who owns what results.
- Used swabs can be **safely disposed of in the garbage** at home. This is different from what you will see in the video. Garbage disposal for at home use is an approved process.
- **Neither PPE nor gloves** are required to administer the test. **Wash your hands** with soap and water before and after administering the rapid test.
- Rapid testing is only for asymptomatic children (a child showing **no symptoms**)
- If a child is showing symptoms, isolate the child and book a PCR test immediately at an AHS Assessment Center
- If a rapid test registers a positive result, you are to isolate the child immediately, book a PCR test at an AHS Assessment Center and notify the child's caseworker
- If you administer a rapid test and you get an inconclusive result, immediately perform a second test on the child. If the second test also results in an inconclusive test, isolate the child, book a PCR test at an AHS Assessment Center and notify the caseworker.
- If a child does develop COVID19 suspend rapid testing for 6 weeks following their isolation period

- The rapid test kits cannot be used for the [Restrictions Exemption Program](#).
- Any test that is being administered can bring up many feelings for children. The link below can be includes tips to reduce fears and worries a child may have about being tested
 - [Commitment to Comfort: https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/ctc/if-ctc-caregivers-guide.pdf](https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/ctc/if-ctc-caregivers-guide.pdf)
- Children in your care should be willing to participate in the rapid testing program and may change their mind about participating without notice.
- Update your support worker and child's caseworker if a child is unwilling to participate or if there are any changes to administering the rapid tests in your home. For example, child is willing and then refuses the rapid test or you no longer wish to administer the test.

If you have more questions

Please contact your support worker or the child's caseworker.

For the latest COVID-19 information visit www.alberta.ca/Covid19.

If you have questions regarding test results or health outcomes, please contact Health Link at 811.