

## **Rapid Antigen Self Test Information Sheet, September 2021**

Please note that further information and details about the self-testing app and the parent consent form will be provided soon. Below are answers to many of the most common questions around home-based antigen self-testing.

### *How do these tests work?*

The method we will be using is a nasal swab, which is minimally invasive and at the most, will only result in a mild tickling sensation in the nostrils. The swab is placed 2 cm into each nostril and rotated 5 times. The entire process is described and shown in the videos below, and will take no more than about 20 minutes in total. Each family with an unvaccinated student will receive a number of test kits in the next few weeks which will last several weeks and then will be replenished.

At home rapid screening training video for children:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f5ZzZMAbk9w>

At home rapid screening training video for adults:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2alzQ0dd29U>

### *Who is eligible for these tests?*

At TMS we are providing the tests for all unvaccinated or partly vaccinated students and staff who will be on campus because this group is at the highest risk of becoming infected with the Covid-19 virus. Currently 99% of our employees have received both doses of an approved Covid-19 vaccine. As of the week of August 30th, 95% of Covid-19 hospital cases in Ontario are among unvaccinated individuals. While we know that fully vaccinated people can still become infected and transmit the virus, we do not currently have the supplies to cover every student and staff member. We are likely to also provide the self-tests to students in the upper school who may be participating in after-school sports activities.

### *Are the tests compulsory?*

They will be compulsory as a condition of in-person learning for unvaccinated students. However, we will provide the accommodation of online learning for students whose parents do not consent to the testing.

### *Where will the tests be done?*

The Ontario government is permitting self-tests for students to be carried out at home, with parental supervision. This means that in the case of any positive test result, the student is not in school with classmates and teachers, which will reduce the scope of contact tracing and quarantining.

### *What happens in the case of a positive test result?*

In this case, the individual who tests positive must remain at home and inform our nurse immediately. On the web-based app that you will receive, you will enter the positive result which will then automatically go to Public Health who will contact you about further steps. This will include a follow-up

PCR test to verify the antigen test result. For a bit of context, out of 578,000 antigen tests carried out by participants in the CDL pilot program up to Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>, there have been 663 positive results. Of these, 493 were confirmed positive in the follow-up PCR test. The great benefit of a self-testing program in schools is that every positive test result arising from home testing means that we are able to greatly reduce the risk of the virus spreading within the school.

*How long will the self-testing program continue?*

We will carry it on as long as medical experts continue to tell us that it is necessary. At this point it is too early to have any clear idea of an end point but we will carefully monitor all communications from medical and government sources in the coming weeks and months.

*Does the antigen self-testing program replace the OPN app?*

No, we will continue to require daily signing in with the OPN app for everyone entering either campus. This is a further layer of protection for our staff and students.