Dear Parents/Guardians,

We hope that you remain well. The Ministry of Education has requested all school boards in Ontario share the following information with regard to the Province’s plan for COVID-19 testing.

Thank you.

**Message from the Ministry of Education**

We are writing to let you know that the province released its testing plan on Friday May 29, 2020, [Protecting Ontarians Through Enhanced Testing](https://files.ontario.ca/moh-covid-19-protecting-ontarians-through-enhanced-testing-en-2020-05-29.pdf). Ontario now has the most open testing criteria in the country.

Ontario’s testing guidance now indicates that you should visit an assessment centre if you:

* have at least one of the [symptoms of COVID-19](https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-stop-spread#section-0)
* do not have symptoms but are concerned you might have been exposed
* do not have symptoms but think you are at risk through your employment (for example, if you are an essential or health care worker)
* would like to be tested

To support Ontarians who have identified the need to get tested, as of May 24, 2020, people will no longer need a referral to go to any of the more than 130 assessment centres across Ontario for testing. No Ontarian will be declined a test.

Given this expanded guidance, if you do choose to get tested, here are a few important notes:

* Testing is voluntary.
* You **do not** need an OHIP card to be tested. It is a **free** service.
* Some assessment centres may require you to book an appointment first or have certain restrictions (for example, some are unable to test young children). [Find out more about an assessment centre near you](https://covid-19.ontario.ca/assessment-centre-locations).
* You can also take an online [self-assessment](https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/) to help determine if you should get tested.
* If you are free of symptoms and have not had contact with anyone confirmed to have COVID-19 when presenting for testing, you will not be required to self-isolate. However, you should self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days regardless of your test result. If you begin to develop symptoms, self-isolate and contact your local public health unit for further advice.

Stay informed and visit Ontario’s [**website**](https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus) to learn more about how the province continues to protect Ontarians from COVID-19. Local information is also available from your [local public health unit](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/common/system/services/phu/locations.aspx).