

Dear parents/guardians:

**Dates and specific times will follow – however this is what we know right now.**

The Ministry of Education has begun shipping rapid antigen tests to school districts for distribution to students. **Please note that schools are receiving these tests in a staggered fashion and that not all schools have yet received their allotment of test. Upon receipt of their tests, schools will begin distribution.**

At Lakewood Elementary, once we receive our tests we will be distributing in the following manner:

One box of five rapid antigen test kits will be provided to each student in our district for their family's use. The kits will be distributed by their school and effective today, **will require parents or guardians of elementary students to pick them up at the school.**

We will provide two pick up times for parents to come to the school and pick up the tests. We will be asking you to travel around the school to the outside gym doors. You will enter one door, travel to the section by alphabet, receive your child's tests and provide a signature to say you received the tests. You will then exit through another door. Please be patient while you wait in line to get the tests.

Last Thursday, [Health Canada](#) sent out an advisory about potential risks associated with the misuse or accidental ingestion or spillage of COVID-19 rapid antigen test kit solutions. The advisory was in response to an increase in reports to poison control centres. As a result of this advisory, we have revised our distribution plan for the kits for K-5 students.

**Please store these kits, at room temperature, out of reach of children and pets.** [The BCCDC's website](#) has more information on the test kits and safety.

Students or their family members should use a rapid antigen test if they have any of the following symptoms of COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Difficulty breathing
- Runny nose
- Headache
- Diarrhea
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Body aches
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Loss of appetite
- Extreme fatigue or tiredness
- Nausea or vomiting

For more information on how to use a rapid antigen test kit, see the [BCCDC's website](#) or review [the rapid antigen at-home test instructions](#). Feel free to print out the instructions or bookmark the link.

If you have any questions about the test kits, call 8-1-1 or reach out to public health.