



Gatestone Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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Dear Staff and Families,

In an effort to provide access to tests and to continue to support our schools, students, staff, and families, the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board is pleased to be able to work in partnership with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and Ontario Health to deliver a PCR self-collection testing option. The PCR self-collection testing option will provide access for students and staff who **become symptomatic during the school day and are required to isolate**. Please note your participation and usage of the PCR self-collection kit is **voluntary**.

Using the PCR Self-Collection Kit:

- A PCR kit is offered (depending on availability) to a staff member or student if they experience the following symptoms while at school: any one of fever and/or chills, cough, shortness of breath, decrease or loss of taste or smell; OR any two of runny nose, headache, extreme fatigue, sore throat, muscle aches, GI symptoms (nausea, vomiting or diarrhea).
- If the student or staff member experience only a single symptom of runny nose, headache, extreme fatigue, sore throat, muscle aches, GI symptoms (nausea, vomiting or diarrhea), will not receive a test kit and may return to school after symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (48 hours for GI symptoms).
- A negative result will allow the individual to exit isolation if symptoms have been improving for at least 24 hours (48 hours for GI symptoms). Household members may exit isolation as well.
- Supply of PCR kits are limited in schools.
- Please use the PCR self-collection kit on the morning before you drop it off at a participating community location. A collected specimen has a **24-hour shelf life** and it is very important that the specimen is collected the same morning that it is dropped-off.
- How-to collect specimen video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yNOPIuH-roU>
- Ensure that you have completed all of the required information on the test requisition and the specimen tube.
 - Label the specimen tube with the date of collection, your full name and either your Health Card Number (required for accessing results online) or date of birth.
 - Complete all required fields of the COVID-19 test requisition.
 - To find a community location in your area, please visit COVID-19 testing locations <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/assessment-centre-locations> . Note that this website is updated on an ongoing basis.
 - You are required to complete the requisition form with the following school-specific investigation number. Your school investigation number will be provided to you by the school.



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- Accessing your results:
 - If you provided your Health Card Number and all required patient information in the test requisition form, your test results will be accessible <https://covid19results.ehealthontario.ca:4443/>. Results are usually available within two days of your specimen being dropped off.
 - Please follow current direction from Public Health on isolation requirements. For information on COVID-19 symptoms, exposure or illness please go to Hamilton.ca/coronavirus and click on the section labelled *Protect Yourself and Others*.