

TO: Child Care Licensees

FROM: Bofoa Kwamena, Director
Child Care Quality Assurance and Licensing Branch

DATE: November 15, 2021

SUBJECT: Rapid Antigen Tests – Delivery Method Update

Thank you again for your continued commitment to ensuring that child care settings remain healthy and safe places for staff, providers, children and families. The purpose of this memo is to provide you with an update on access to rapid antigen tests.

As indicated in the email memo you received on October 28, 2021 from Phil Graham, Assistant Deputy Minister, Early Years and Child Care Division, as of November 10, 2021, licensees must ensure that individuals required to submit to rapid antigen testing **provide verification of negative test results three times per week**. (Please note, testing is optional for licensed child care operating on-reserve).

The ministry recently requested information from licensees on their rapid antigen test needs. This information has been used to inform the next shipment of rapid antigen tests for the child care sector. Licensees that indicated they wished to continue receiving tests from the Ministry of Education will be provided a supply of rapid antigen tests at no cost. To support a streamlined and more expedient access to rapid tests the ministry has updated licensees rapid antigen delivery approach to either direct delivery or school pick-up. Chambers of Commerce are no longer being used by the Ministry as a distribution channel.

To find your assigned method of obtaining tests, please log in to the [Child Care Licensing System \(CCLS\)](#) and navigate to the “Licence Details” page. There will be text at the top of the page, above your licence documents, indicating which method you have been assigned.

If you operate multiple programs, please ensure you check each licence as your programs may have been assigned different pick-up approaches. If you have been assigned direct delivery, each licence will indicate direct delivery; however, you will only receive one shipment with enough rapid antigen tests for all programs.

Licensees who did not respond to the survey or who indicated that they did not require tests will not receive tests from the ministry and will need to secure tests through an alternate method

Reporting

As a reminder, child care programs are required to have a verification and reporting system in place per the Letter of Instructions.

Licensees that pick up their rapid antigen tests at a school or have them directly delivered must report information to the Ministry of Health through their Health Data Collection Service or by using the Thrive Health App.

For child care programs that would like to use the Thrive Health app, please register your program via the CDL registration [link](#). As part of the onboarding and set-up process, once registered CDL will provide a link to attend a kick-off webinar in the language you registered in. Please connect with CDL directly if you have any questions. Ontario will agree to indemnify licensees to the extent that liability is incurred under the indemnity provisions¹ in the letters of agreement entered into by the licensee with CDL RSC and Thrive Health Inc.

For information on how licensees may secure an indemnification from Ontario related to the use of the Thrive Health, please contact Licensed Child Care Helpdesk at childcare_ontario@ontario.ca.

Those child care programs receiving rapid antigen tests through direct delivery or through the school board that do not use Thrive will receive a Welcome Package from the Ministry of Health and then be onboarded to the Health Data Collection Service, to submit their data directly to the Ministry of Health.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Boafoa Kwamena

c. Children Services Managers, Consolidated Municipal Service Managers and District Social Services Administration Boards

¹ Section 5(f) of the Agreement with CDL RSC and section 7.3 of the Agreement with Thrive Health Inc.