

November 15th, 2021

Dear Fireside parents/guardians and staff,

Given our school has recently been identified to have an outbreak of COVID-19, we have been provided the opportunity to participate in the province's voluntary At-Home Rapid Testing Program for students 11 years and under. For those families and staff who choose to take the rapid tests, they will be able to quickly identify if the student/staff member has COVID-19 and stay home to isolate. This optional program can help to provide another layer of protection from further transmission in our school.

The province has determined that the program is focused for students 11 years and under because vaccines are not yet available for students in this age group. As per the province's direction, test kits will not be made available for students 12 and over.

I want to emphasize that taking the at-home rapid tests is completely voluntary. There is no ask or expectation from the school that a child or staff member take the tests. For those who want the rapid test kit, they will be sent home and the testing is performed at home. No child or staff member will receive a rapid test at school. RVS staff members will not ask if the child/or fellow staff member took the tests home, used the tests or what the results were.

Later this week, each student will receive 10 rapid tests to take home which is enough for five weeks of testing. If you do not wish to have your child take the test kit home, please contact the school office via email fireside@rockyview.ab.ca by end of day Tuesday, November 16th, 2021.

The province has provided information about the program and how to use the test kits. If you are considering this option, please review the information below.

How to use COVID-19 rapid tests:

- [K-6 At-Home Rapid Testing Program: Information for parents, students and school staff](#)
- [How-to video for parents/guardians](#)

Please continue to use the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#) every day before coming to school and for information on when to stay home. Questions about the program and at-home testing should be directed to EDC.schoolrapidtesting@gov.ab.ca and not to the school. Thank you for your support as we work together to minimize the spread of COVID-19 in our schools.

Sincerely,

Dave Banderk

Principal