



Bluewater District School Board

Alana Murray, *Director of Education*

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Ministry of Education has asked for the assistance of school boards in making members of our school communities aware of Ontario's new COVID-19 testing plan, including the availability of free testing for anyone who would like it. We are sharing this information with you to ensure our communities in Bruce and Grey counties remain safe for everyone.

The well-being of all members of our school communities, including students, families and staff, is a top priority for our school board. We are writing to let you know that the province released its testing plan on Friday May 29, 2020, [Protecting Ontarians Through Enhanced Testing](#). 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](#)
- 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.](#)
- You can also take an online [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.

The most up-to-date information on COVID-19 can be found on the Government of Ontario's [website](#) and local information is also available from our [Grey Bruce Health Unit](#).

The following information on our local assessment centres was provided by Grey Bruce Health Unit:

OWEN SOUND: Owen Sound Regional Hospital, Grey Bruce Health Services
Location: Portable facility just outside the entrance to the Owen Sound Hospital Emergency Department
Hours of Operation: 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM,
Monday to Friday

For more information, visit [Grey Bruce Health Services](#)

KINCARDINE: Kincardine Hospital, South
Bruce Grey Health Centre Location: Portable
facility located between hospital and medical
clinic Hours of Operation: 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM,
Monday to Friday

For More information, visit the [South Bruce Grey Health Centre](#)

HANOVER:

Hanover & District
Hospital Location:
Main entrance to
the hospital

Hours of Operation: 12:30 PM – 4:30 PM, 7 days a week

For more information, visit the [Hanover and District Hospital](#)

NOTE: Appointments are not necessary at any site. Patients will be pre-screened, and will be asked to wash their hands and put on a mask prior to entry. To reduce risk and traffic within the Centres, only those patients who require assistance will be permitted to bring a support person with them into the facilities.

As your local school board we care not only for our students' well-being, but that of their families as well. On behalf of Bluewater District School Board, we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone, and especially the public health and healthcare workers, for working together to keep us all safe and healthy. In doing so, we have very few recorded cases of COVID-19, and thankfully no deaths in our area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Murray', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Alana Murray
Director of Education