

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## What are our goals?

The COVID-19 Seroprevalence Study aims to support schools, students, and parents across the GTA by surveying children and adolescents for COVID-19 exposure through testing for viral antigen (current infection) and antibody (past infection/vaccination).

## What does participation involve?

- Informed consent
- Completion of short health questionnaire
- Donation of a nasal swab (antigen test) AND/OR small blood sample (antibody test)

## Who can participate?

Children of all ages in Southern Ontario are invited to participate.

## Does my child have to be vaccinated to participate?

No, your child does not have to be vaccinated to participate in this study.

## What is a rapid antigen test and what can it tell me?

Rapid antigen tests detect viral protein in a swab sample. This testing helps us identify current COVID-19 infection, preventing viral spread and keeping schools and families safe.

## What is an antibody test and what can it tell me?

Antibody tests detect COVID-19 antibodies in the blood. Antibodies are created by your immune system to help fight off infections. This testing helps us monitor immune protection against COVID-19 in children before and after vaccination.

## Does my child have to partake in both tests?

No, all testing is completely voluntary. Children have the option to participate in none, one or both tests.

## How much blood do you take?

A very small amount of blood will be collected. The amount of blood varies with age but ranges from 1mL (newborns and infants) to 11mL (11-18 years of age). Generally, it is approximately a teaspoon of blood.

## Does the blood draw hurt?

This varies with each child. Some say it feels like a mosquito bite and others say it feels like a pinch. We use a needle called the butterfly needle, which is used on babies when

treated at hospitals. It is the smallest type of needle and pain is minimal.

# CALIPER

## SickKids COVID-19 Seroprevalence Study

## Does my child have to fast before blood collection?

No fasting is necessary.

## What kind of swab is used and what does it feel like?

We use a nasal swab. The swab feels like a tickle in the nose and in some cases, it might make your eyes water or it might make you sneeze.

## Who draws the blood and takes the swab?

We have fully trained phlebotomists and registered nurses who are a part of the CALIPER SickKids team that will draw the blood and/or take the swab. Our staff are highly experienced with children and are professionals in their field.

## Can my child donate at SickKids?

Yes. Contact us at [caliper.project@sickkids.ca](mailto:caliper.project@sickkids.ca) to schedule an appointment for your child to donate here at the hospital.

## If my child does not want to partake in donating, can they withdraw?

Yes. The child can withdraw from participating at any time. They will still receive a letter of appreciation for being brave enough for trying.

## When will my child receive their results?

You will receive your child's results through email around 1 month after collection. If your child has a positive result on the rapid test, you will be contacted immediately.

## Will my child's information be confidential?

Yes. All data entered will be confidential and results published will be de-identified..

## Questions?

Contact us at [caliper.project@sickkids.ca](mailto:caliper.project@sickkids.ca)