



**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 58 (NICOLA-SIMILKAMEEN)**

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February 28, 2022

Good afternoon SD58 Families,

Last week your child received a set of five COVID 19 antigen test kits to take home for later use when they are sick or show symptoms that need testing.

We learned late last week of concerns about the liquid in the test kits as shared by Health Canada below:

Health Canada's advisory, sent out on Thursday, cautioned about potential risks associated with misuse or spilling the COVID-19 rapid test liquid on the skin.

"Health Canada has determined that the kits are safe and effective when used as intended," reads the advisory, which noted that the kits should be used under parental supervision and kept out of a child's reach.

"However, many test kits include liquid solutions with chemical preservatives, such as sodium azide and Proclin that may be poisonous if swallowed or absorbed through the skin, particularly in children and pets."

The advisory continued, saying "as part of COVID-19 testing initiatives Canadians may receive rapid antigen test kits for self-use from health units, schools, workplaces or other venues that have been authorized by Health Canada for use by laboratories or trained individuals.

"While these kits are safe, effective, and beneficial for self-testing, the product labelling and instructions may not describe or disclose the risks associated with misuse or accidental ingestion.

"This advisory is intended to help fill that labelling gap, and warn Canadians about the risks associated with misuse, accidental ingestion or spillage of rapid antigen test kit solutions."

To view the advisory, [visit Health Canada's website](#).

We want to be sure that you have the most up to date and accurate information about these kits and their usage to be able to ensure your families' health and safety moving forward, so please see further info below.

BCCDC's [Rapid Testing At Home web page](#)

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jameel Aziz', is written over a horizontal line.

Jameel Aziz
Assistant Superintendent

