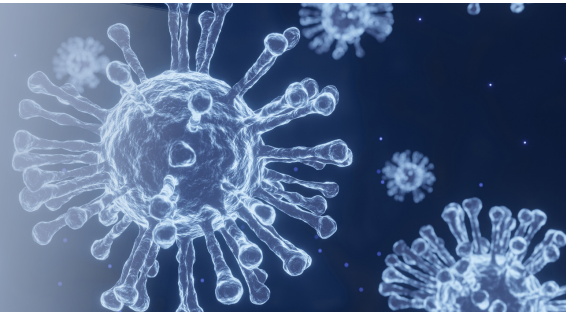




PUBLIC HEALTH NOTES

MAY 2021 VOLUME 3, ISSUE 5

Can the COVID-19 Vaccine Cause the COVID-19 Virus and Positive Testing?



FACT vs FICTION

VACCINE or VIRUS?

Current COVID-19 vaccines do not contain live virus, therefore, these vaccines will **not** cause COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) virus. Immune response reactions post-administration may mimic COVID-19 symptoms, such as fatigue, headache, muscle and/or joint pain up to 48 hours post immunization. Viral testing is recommended when a patient reports respiratory symptoms or loss of taste or smell as these are not vaccine related side effects. Individual assessments are encouraged pertaining to non-respiratory symptoms to determine immune response status or rule out recent COVID-19 infection.

VIRAL SWAB

This testing includes nucleic acid and antigen tests. The authorized COVID-19 vaccines in Canada will **not** cause a positive COVID-19 viral test because they do not contain live virus. A vaccine which is not live can not be correlated to a positive viral swab, regardless of method, such as NP, deep nasal, nares or throat. The proteins produced following vaccination are not expressed in the respiratory tract, which is sampled with viral swabs.

ANTIBODY TEST

Antibody tests (blood tests) can detect IgG, IgA, and IgM antibodies from an immune response to SARS-CoV-2. They detect the body's immune response to the infection caused by the virus rather than detecting the virus itself. Scientists are continuing to investigate SARS-CoV-2 immune responses and immunoglobulin (antibody) persistence over time using either IgG or total antibodies test.

It may be possible to test positive in an antibody (serology) test that measures COVID-19 immunity in an individual. Therefore, viral testing is recommended for active virus detection.

Public Health Ontario. *What You Need to Know About the COVID-19 Vaccine*
Public Health Ontario. *COVID-19 Vaccines: Viral Vector-based Vaccines*
CDC. *Myths and Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines*
WHO. *Coronavirus disease (COVID-19): Vaccines*



Vision Health Month!

MAY IS VISION HEALTH MONTH!

Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) covers the cost of a comprehensive eye examination once every 12 months for all children (0-19 years) who have a valid OHIP card.

Before children start junior kindergarten, RCDHU encourages families to book an appointment with an optometrist to ensure children have clear vision and healthy eyes to learn in the classroom! Regular eye examinations by an optometrist are essential for detecting eye problems and preserving good vision health.

FINDING AN OPTOMETRIST

Families in need of an optometrist can visit the Ontario Association of Optometrists [Find an Eye Doctor](#) online directory.

The RCDHU *Vision Services* team is happy to provide families with more information. Contact *Vision Services* at 613-735-8661 or email vision@rcdhu.com.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The *Eye See...Eye Learn*® program will provide one pair of glasses to eligible junior kindergarten students (4 years of age) in need. The estimated value of the glasses is over \$250.

Children born in 2017 can book an appointment with a **participating optometrist** between July 2021 and June 2022. For a list of participating optometrists in Renfrew County and District and complete eligibility requirements, please visit: optom.on.ca/esel/ or contact RCDHU.

Families receiving financial assistance from Ontario Works or the Ontario Disability Support Program can contact their caseworker for information on assistance with the cost of prescription eyeglasses.

