

Date: March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022

Please distribute through your networks the following messaging being sent on behalf of FNIHB National Office and Health Canada

**Re: Public advisory rapid antigen test**

Health Canada has issued a public advisory regarding rapid antigen test kits and potential exposure to hazardous substances.

Health Canada is advising Canadians about potential risks associated with the misuse or accidental ingestion or spillage of COVID-19 rapid antigen test kit solutions on the skin. Health Canada has determined that the kits are safe and effective when used as intended. 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.

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.

Full Advisory can be found at: <https://recalls-rappels.canada.ca/en/alert-recall/rapid-antigen-test-kits-and-potential-exposure-hazardous-substances>

Please see below for a summary of actions that can be taken:

- Keep rapid antigen test kits and solutions out of the reach of children and pets.
- Do not swallow the solutions, and avoid eye and skin contact.
- Wash hands thoroughly after use.
- If spillage occurs, rinse well with water.
- Follow all instructions for proper disposal.
- Report any health product-related [side effects](#) or [complaints](#) to Health Canada.
- Contact your local Poison Information Centre in cases of accidental ingestion or direct skin exposure to test kit solutions.