



Press release

Covid-19: Vaud canton organises mass coronavirus testing

In accordance with the strategy adopted by the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPA), Vaud canton is organising a mass testing campaign, starting with resorts in the Vaud Alps, in anticipation of the half-term break. People living in Villars will be offered a free test from Friday morning onwards, so that they can play an active role in combating the development of the epidemic while allowing the resorts to remain open during a period that is essential for the regional economy and tourism

One part of the strategy developed by the FOPA is organising mass testing, particularly in areas where people from different regions come together and mix in large numbers. The Council of State decided to implement this type of testing in the canton, in anticipation of the half-term break, when it met on 3 February 2021. The mass testing campaign will begin in resorts in the Vaud Alps and should help to curb the spread of the epidemic. By quickly identifying people who test positive, even if they are asymptomatic, the tracing teams will be able to order them to self-isolate and quarantine to break the virus's chain of transmission. These measures, in addition to those already in effect for the whole of the population, are aimed at allowing facilities to remain open. The upcoming half-term break is essential to the economic health of mountain resorts, and providers of tourist services need, as far as possible, to be able to work. In fact, almost 41% of annual overnight stays in the Vaud Alps take place during the ski season.

The first phase of testing will take place in Villars from Friday 5 to Sunday 7 February. It will continue in Les Diablerets for three days and move to Leysin on Thursday. Anyone present in the municipalities where tests are being organised may attend a rapid screening test, which will only take a few minutes, without an appointment. Tests are free of charge and aimed at anyone over the age of 12, including the resident population, employees and workers, resident and passing tourists, and anyone else present in the resort.

The first test centre will be open on Friday 5 February from 09:00 to 19:00 at the Centre des Sports de Villars SA Tennis, Route du Col de la Croix, Les Rochegrises, in Villars-sur-Ollon. The test centre teams will consist of 37 people from the Civil Protection Department and specialists from the tracing service. The computerised administrative procedure means that those tested will be given their result by text message.

Vaud Canton Information and Communications Office

Lausanne, 4 February 2021

More information: