

## **New school year begins with mobile testing units in Secondary Education**

As of Wednesday, 8 September when the new school year begins, mobile testing units for rapid antigen tests will visit secondary schools for students who wish to be tested. The aim is to facilitate students to receive a SafePass, but also to detect early positive cases in the student community, **thus ensuring that schools operate as safely as possible with physical presence.**

The Ministry of Health, in consultation with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Youth, has prepared and send to schools a programme whereby mobile units will visit, on rotation and every 72 hours, Lyceums and Gymnasiums in all Districts. In addition, during the weekends, the number of units in rapid antigen testing locations will be increased, so that students who need to hold a SafePass can be served faster and without any inconvenience.

It is stressed that **the mobile units visiting Secondary Education Schools will serve only students (12-17 years old)**. It is recalled that students will have to provide the Consent Form, completed and signed by their parents/legal guardians on the first time of undergoing the test.

Teachers and other school staff who do not hold a certificate of vaccination or recovery will not be served by the mobile units in schools. For SafePass purposes, these individuals must show a negative result of a PCR or rapid test valid for 72 hours, from private clinical laboratories or pharmacies, at their own expense.

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