

**One-Time  
Student  
COVID-19  
Testing**

**September 9, 2021**

# CDC-Guidance regarding COVID-19 Testing

- Aug. 5, 2021 Guidance

- Screening- Screening testing identifies infected people, including those with or without symptoms (or before development of symptoms) who may be contagious, so that measures can be taken to prevent further transmission.
- In K-12 schools, screening testing can help promptly identify and isolate cases, quarantine those who may have been exposed to COVID-19 and are not fully vaccinated, and identify clusters to reduce the risk to in-person education
- CDC guidance provides that people who are fully vaccinated do not need to participate in screening testing and do not need to quarantine if they do not have any symptoms.
- Decisions regarding screening testing may be made at the state or local level.

# CDC Guidance Continued

- Screening testing may be most valuable in areas with substantial or high community transmission levels, in areas with low vaccination coverage, and in schools where other prevention strategies are not implemented.
- Screening testing should be offered to students who have not been fully vaccinated when community transmission is at moderate, substantial, or high levels
- Schools may consider multiple screening testing strategies, for example, testing a random sample of at least 10% of students who are not fully vaccinated, or conducting pooled testing of cohorts. Testing in low-prevalence settings might produce false positive results, but testing can provide an important prevention strategy and safety net to support in-person education.
- To facilitate safe participation in sports, extracurricular activities, and other activities with elevated risk (such as activities that involve singing, shouting, band, and exercise that could lead to increased exhalation), schools should consider implementing screening testing for participants who are not fully vaccinated.

Table 1. Screening Testing Recommendations for K-12 Schools by Level of Community Transmission

	Low Transmission <sup>1</sup> Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
<b>Students</b>	Do not need to screen students.	<b>Offer screening testing for students</b> who are not fully vaccinated at least once per week.		
<b>Teachers and staff</b>	<b>Offer screening testing for teachers and staff</b> who are not fully vaccinated at least once per week.			
<b>High risk sports and activities</b>	<b>Recommend screening testing for high-risk sports<sup>2</sup> and extracurricular activities<sup>3</sup></b> at least once per week for participants who are not fully vaccinated.		<b>Recommend screening testing for high-risk sports and extracurricular activities</b> twice per week for participants who are not fully vaccinated.	<b>Cancel or hold high-risk sports and extracurricular activities virtually</b> to protect in-person learning, unless all participants are fully vaccinated.
<b>Low- and intermediate-risk sports</b>	Do not need to screen students participating in low- and intermediate-risk sports. <sup>2</sup>	<b>Recommend screening testing for low- and intermediate-risk sports</b> at least once per week for participants who are not fully vaccinated.		

<sup>1</sup> [Levels of community transmission](#) defined as total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days (low, 0-9; moderate 10-49; substantial, 50-99, high, ≥100) and percentage of positive tests in the past 7 days (low, <5%; moderate, 5-7.9%; substantial, 8-9.9%; high, ≥10%.)

<sup>2</sup> Examples of low-risk sports are diving and golf; intermediate-risk sport examples are baseball and cross country; high-risk sport examples are football and wrestling.

# California Department of Public Health

July 12, 2021

- High vaccine uptake state-wide and safety precaution measures for COVID-19 allow schools to plan for full in-person instruction for students of all ages for the upcoming school year.
- Although vaccines are now widely available and vaccinated peoples are less likely to be infected with or transmit COVID-19, vaccines are not yet available for students 11 years old and younger.
- In addition, not all students and staff who are eligible for vaccination have been vaccinated. This highlights the continued need for proven COVID-19 prevention strategies, including testing unvaccinated peoples in school communities.
- Therefore, COVID-19 testing in K-12 schools remains a powerful tool for preventing transmission of COVID-19

# CDPH Testing Overview

Schools may use one or multiple testing options at any time. Schools may also choose to use a different combination of one or more testing options as situations change and the school year progresses. See below for a brief summary of the testing options.

- Keeping Track of COVID-19 (lower case rates in the community) - periodic testing of a portion of unvaccinated asymptomatic staff and students to understand school rates of COVID-19
- Preventing Outbreaks of New Cases via Screening (higher case rates or outbreaks in the community) - screening testing for all unvaccinated people at high frequency (weekly or twice weekly) in order to prevent inschool transmission and prevent an outbreak on campus.
- Responding to School Outbreaks (might happen at low or high community case rates) - testing unvaccinated close contacts in a school outbreak, to find any potentially asymptomatic infectious individuals who should isolate at home to prevent infecting others
- Helping Keep Kids in School (symptom testing and testing to modify quarantine) \* - testing students and staff with symptoms, and testing to modify quarantine for unvaccinated close contacts as described in the CDPH K-12 schools guidance

## K-12 School-based Testing Options

Questions for Consideration	Keeping Track of COVID-19	Preventing Outbreaks of New Cases via Screening	Responding to School Outbreaks**	Helping Keep Kids in School
What is the COVID-19 rate in your community?	<p>Low community case rates*</p> <p>No active community outbreaks</p>	<p>Moderate, Substantial or High Community case rates*</p> <p>Active community outbreaks or increasing community rates</p>	Any community case rates	Any community case rates
When might schools consider this option?	<p>To reassure and support members of the school community and/or</p> <p>To track case rates in schools for decision-making</p>	To prevent outbreaks in schools where there are higher community case rates	There is an active outbreak occurring in the LEA	To provide onsite access to testing for those with symptoms or close contacts of cases, to limit missed school days with a modified quarantine/

\*Low, moderate, substantial and high community rates are defined and tracked [here](#) by the CDC

\*\*Consult and coordinate with your local health departments to decide when to implement these testing approaches, in the event of an outbreak, the state-supported programs can also provide additional testing and contact tracing capacity, via a strike team deployed by the Testing Task Force

/As described in the [CDPH K-12 schools guidance](#)

## Suggested Implementation of Potential K-12 School-based Testing Options\*

	Keeping Track of COVID-19	Preventing Outbreaks of New Cases via Screening	Responding to School Outbreaks	Testing Symptomatic People and to Modify Quarantine
Appropriate Test Types	<p>Pooled PCR in elementary schools with reflex antigen or PCR**</p> <p>Antigen</p> <p>Lab-based PCR</p>	<p>Pooled PCR in elementary schools with reflex antigen or PCR**</p> <p>Antigen</p> <p>Lab-based PCR</p>	<p>Lab-based PCR</p> <p>Antigen on-site</p> <p>Rapid molecular tests (PCR-like)</p>	<p>Lab-based PCR</p> <p>Antigen on-site</p> <p>Rapid molecular tests (PCR-like)</p>
Population Tested	<p>At least 10% of elementary classrooms</p> <p>And/or</p> <p>At least 10% of all unvaccinated staff and students</p>	<p>All unvaccinated students and staff</p>	<p>All exposed unvaccinated students and staff</p> <p>All symptomatic students and staff regardless of vaccination status</p>	<p>Staff or students with symptoms, regardless of vaccination status and/or</p> <p>Unvaccinated students or staff who are close contacts, to remain in school for a modified quarantine</p>
Frequency of Testing	<p>Pre-entry testing once before school begins, and consider after school breaks and/or</p> <p>Adaptive approach: weekly, every 2 weeks, or monthly, adapting if in-school or community case rates shift***</p>	<p>Weekly or twice weekly testing</p>	<p>Testing of all exposed unvaccinated people at beginning of quarantine and to modify quarantine if appropriate for the outbreak</p>	<p>As needed</p>



Schools could consider doing this once at the start of the school year and then every other week or monthly thereafter and if rates increase, could consider increasing the frequency or the percent of people tested. Schools whose communities or leadership need more assurance could consider doing this weekly for 3-6 weeks initially and if in-school rates are low overall and no in-school transmission is occurring, could change to test every two weeks or monthly.

# CDPH Testing Guidance for 2021-22 school year

## STEP 1: PREPARE TO TEST YOUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

### STEP 2: REVIEW THE TESTING OPTIONS



Keeping Track of COVID



Preventing Outbreaks



Responding to Outbreaks

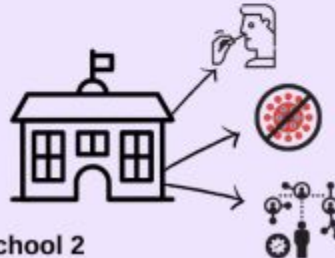


Helping Keep Kids in School

### STEP 3: CHOOSE ONE OR MORE TESTING OPTION/S FOR YOUR SCHOOL



School 1  
*Lower Community Transmission*



School 2  
*Higher Community Transmission*



School 3  
*Any Community Transmission*

# Potential Options?

- Mandate all students be tested one time for COVID-19 or specific groups
- Consider testing students for COVID-19, with parent consent, who wish to be tested using saliva test kit and outside provider
- Maintain current status of making test kits available to all families who wish to use them as needed, no required testing

# Testing Options all with Saliva RT-PCR Test

1. Cash option without pooling: \$115 per test for total of \$297,620
2. Cash pooling option (3 samples per pool): \$95 per test for total of \$245,860
3. Insurance billing without pooling: \$115 for each uninsured student

(Above options based on current student count of 2,588)