

Vermont Agency of Education



Dear Superintendents and COVID-19 Coordinators:

Thank you for your patience and your partnership as we finalize our new Test at Home program. Today we are sharing with you two updated advisory memos and the testing protocol.

Updated Advisory Memos and Testing Protocol:

As part of the transition to the new program, the Agency of Education and Department of Health have updated two advisory memos:

- [Advisory Memo: COVID-19 Prevention and Mitigation Measures for Winter 2022](#) (replacing the fall version)
- Advisory Memo: [Recommendations for Contact Tracing](#) (RESCINDED)

The Agency of Education and Department of Health are also issuing:

- [Test at Home: Vermont School COVID-19 Testing Protocol Winter 2022](#)

We are currently finalizing development of template letters about the program and for notifying families of the need to get tested, and will share those as soon as possible.

We understand you and your staff will have additional questions, particularly about the operational details. Please continue to send those to us at AOE.COVID19testing@vermont.gov. We are in process on FAQ and additional supporting documentation to assist with implementation.

I do want to warn you to avoid the temptation to build additional processes and protocols to track cases, manage notifications, or otherwise implement the program. Please limit your efforts to what the State recommends and what is strictly necessary to operationalize Test at Home in your school. You should not prepare line lists, track cases, or undertake other activities associated with contact tracing. Omicron's speed of transition, and the rising case counts will quickly overwhelm your ability to keep up with these additional activities, and exhaust you and your staff. I urge you to keep your focus on distributing kits to those students and staff who need them in order to continue their learning.

Kit Distribution

To support the transition to home-based testing, districts will receive a supply of take home antigen tests today. This supply should be sufficient to allow schools to begin their transition to home-based testing early next week and additional guidance and communications tools will be made available later today.

This initial supply will include BinaxNow packs with two (2) individual tests and Quidel packs with ten (10) individual tests.

We recommend that you use the 2 packs for vaccinated students and boosted staff if they are contacts to test on days 4 and 5. We recommend that you use the 10 packs for unvaccinated students for home-based testing if they are a contact, with the understanding that the protocol only calls for 5 days and there may be waste, or they can use them in their families. Please refer to the protocol document for additional information.

Per the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), the Quidel 10 packs should **not** be broken up and handed out to two students.

After this initial distribution and moving forward you will receive only 2 packs.

Thank you for your efforts and your partnership. Please continue to communicate with us as questions come up.

Sincerely,

Daniel M. French, Ed.D.
Secretary of Education

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