

FAQ for On-Site COVID-19 Testing in Schools

Most of the information in this document is from the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS)/Oregon Health Authority (OHA) "COVID-19 Testing in Oregon's K-12 Schools" guidance.

What is the purpose of on-site testing in schools?

To test students and staff who develop new symptoms such as fever or cough while at school OR when a student or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19, to test their cohorts (e.g., classroom, reading group, etc.).

The intention of on-site testing is:

- To help quickly identify COVID-19 cases in K-12 schools
- Interrupt viral spread through households and in classrooms
- Reduce the risk for students and staff returning to in-person instruction
- Potentially shorten the length of quarantine for exposed individuals who test negative when recommended by the local public health authority.

Are school districts required to have on-site testing?

If a K-12 school is operating an On-Site or Hybrid Instructional Model AND is located in a county that does NOT meet the Ready Schools, Safe Learners (RSSL) general metrics, the school MUST provide on-site COVID-19 testing beginning March 1, 2021.

Who is the testing for?

This program is intended to test SYMPTOMATIC and EXPOSED students and school staff only. The Abbott BinaxNOW tests should NOT be used to screen asymptomatic individuals or those without a known exposure to COVID-19.

Testing should only be used in the following two scenarios:

1. When a student or staff member develops symptoms consistent with COVID-19 while at school, testing may be used to inform their care and return to school.
2. When a school cohort has been exposed to a case of COVID-19 and quarantined; testing on day 5 through 7 following exposure may be used to facilitate early release from quarantine after day 7 when recommended by the local public health authority

Can I send my child to school to get tested if they are sick?

No. Under NO circumstances should an individual with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 come to school specifically for testing. **Please keep ill students out of school.**

Are the tests free?

Yes. The Federal Government has allocated Abbott BinaxNOW rapid point-of-care antigen tests to states to support COVID-19 testing during the 2020-2021 school year.

What test is being used?

The Abbott BinaxNOW rapid point-of-care antigen test. For more information on this test:

<https://www.abbott.com/BinaxNOW-Test-NAVICA-App.html>

Who administers the test at the school?

The school testing administrator is a person assigned to perform all on-site COVID-19 testing. The school testing administrator DOES NOT need to be a medical professional.

How is the school testing administrator trained?

The administrator must complete all required online training modules for the BinaxNOW point-of-care antigen test and carefully review all training regarding personal protective equipment (PPE) use included in the guidance.

How is the test administered?

The test requires a shallow nasal swab which must be self-administered under observation. **If a student or staff member is not able to self-collect the specimen under observation, the school testing administrator should refer the student or staff member to their healthcare provider.**

Does testing require permission/consent?

Yes. All students must have written consent (form provided by school) on file PRIOR to COVID-19 testing; staff may give verbal consent at the time of testing. Staff are not required to have a consent form on file in order to be tested for COVID-19.

Can I Opt-Out of testing for my student?

If you don't complete and submit the Consent Form to your school, your student will not be tested.

How long does it take to get the results?

15 minutes

Are results confidential?

Yes. Student and staff test results, both positive and negative, are confidential. Student test results may be shared with the student and their legal guardian only. However, student and staff test results will be reported to public health, as required under ORS 433.004 and ORS 433.008.

What happens to my student after the test is administered?

You student will be sent home, regardless if the test result is POSITIVE or NEGATIVE, because they are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms.

According to the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) COVID-19 Exclusion Summary Guidance for K-12 Schools:

If a person **tests negative** for COVID-19, they may return to school after symptoms improve AND fever free for 24 hours AND have NOT had contact with a COVID-19 case in past 14 days.

If a person is **not tested or tests positive** for COVID-19, they must stay home for at least 10 days since symptoms started AND 24 hours fever free AND symptoms improved.

Please refer to the Exclusion Flow Chart for more information.