

CALIFORNIA SCHOOL RAPID TESTING PROGRAM

To promote safer in-person learning environments, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), in partnership with the California COVID-19 Testing Task Force, is providing FREE rapid COVID-19 tests for teachers, staff and students at participating schools. Along with other safety practices such as masking, distancing, and improved ventilation, routine testing of students and staff can help school communities reduce the spread of COVID-19. This is especially important as most children are not yet eligible for vaccination. With schools reopening, children will be one of the most likely future sources of COVID-19 transmission.

BENEFITS

All K-12 schools, including public, charter and private, are eligible to participate in the California School Rapid Antigen Testing Program. Schools can use this program for routine screening of both students and staff with or without symptoms. The program provides the following resources and tools:

- ✓ Abbott BinaxNow antigen test cards that provide results in 15-30 minutes
 - * *Program provides molecular tests (e.g., PCR, CUE test) to confirm positive results*
- ✓ Robust training for school personnel to perform on-site testing
- ✓ Use of the CDPH K-12 Schools Antigen Testing Program's a) physician order for testing** and b) CLIA Waiver (that allows the school to perform the testing)**
- ✓ Use of the online platform, Primary.Health

**-training requirements need to be met

TESTING PROCESS



1) Consent and register - participants will be given access to Primary.Health, a web-based platform that allows participants and parents/guardians to sign consent forms and register for a test. The platform is available in 15 languages and offers phone support for those without internet access.



2) Check in for test – Participants will check in at a school test site and present registration information.



3) Collection of nasal swab – participants will self-swab (see [video of students self-swabbing](#)).



4) School personnel perform tests – test is run, and results are read in 15-30 minutes.



5) Get test results- participants will log onto Primary.Health to receive test results. The platform automatically reports all test results (both positive and negative) to your local health department.

SIGN UP TODAY!

To find out if antigen testing might be the right fit for your school, please visit the [Testing Task Force Website](#) or email us at schoolbinax@cdph.ca.gov. We recommend schools work closely with their local public health departments to successfully implement a testing program.

