

# Onsite COVID-19 Testing Recommendations for Schools

The table below summarizes testing types; suggestions for prioritizing limited rapid antigen testing supplies; and options for how to obtain free testing supplies. The purpose of these recommendations and testing resources are to support schools in their efforts to maintain in-person learning. This document also includes important reminders regarding onsite testing at schools (page 2).

<p><b>What type of tests are available?</b></p>	<p><b>Rapid Antigen</b> Rapid antigen tests yield quick results (about 15 minutes) and can be performed onsite at the school. A negative test does not rule-out COVID in symptomatic individuals.</p>	<p><b>PCR</b> PCR is a test that is sent to an offsite lab to process and typically provides results 24-48 hours after collection. This test is more accurate in determining if individuals have COVID.</p>
<p><b>Who should be prioritized for testing?</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Symptomatic teachers and ancillary staff</li> <li>2. Exposed teachers, if supply allows</li> <li>3. Exposed students, if supply allows</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Symptomatic students</li> <li>2. Exposed students</li> <li>3. Exposed teachers</li> </ol>
<p><b>When should testing occur?</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Symptomatic: Test any time after symptom onset; however, if negative, consider retesting in 24 hours. Also consider other possible causes for symptoms (e.g., flu, strep throat, stomach virus) as well as sick policy for when it's safe to return to the school setting.</li> <li>2. After exposure: Avoid testing too early. It is recommended to test at least 5 days after the first exposure to the positive individual. The use of a well-fitting mask during the 10 days after last exposure is very important to prevent spread in the school setting.</li> </ol> <p><i>NOTE: If your rapid antigen testing supply allows some or all symptomatic students to be tested, the school can determine how best to strategize use of testing supplies.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Symptomatic: Test any time after symptom onset. No need to repeat if negative. If negative, consider other possible causes for symptoms (e.g., flu, strep throat, stomach virus) as well as sick policy for when it's safe to return to the school setting.</li> <li>2. After exposure: Avoid testing too early. It's recommended to test at least 5 days after the first exposure to the positive individual. The use of a well-fitting mask during the 10 days after exposure is very important to prevent spread in the school setting.</li> </ol>

**Continued on next page**

<p><b>How do you obtain free testing resources for your school?</b></p>	<p>Enrollment in the <a href="#">Oklahoma Schools COVID-19 Prevention Project 723</a> provides schools with access to rapid testing supplies along with additional funding to support COVID reduction in school settings. To participate, schools should make a good faith effort to test 5% of the total school population each month for COVID-19. This can include students, teachers, staff, volunteers, etc. — anyone who is present for any part of the day in the individual school.</p> <p>Schools can request free rapid testing supplies through the OSDH BigCommerce ordering portal <a href="#">BigCommerce</a>. Choose “Get Started” to set up an account. Schools will use the BigCommerce portal until testing supplies in the OSDH warehouse have been exhausted and will then transition to using the McKesson Supply Manager online platform to order their free testing supplies. Schools will be notified when they need to begin using the McKesson Supply Manager.</p>	<p><b>Enrollment in Operation Expanded Testing</b> provides schools with access to PCR testing that can be done with existing staff; no medical staff are needed. Enrollment in the program will provide training on how and by whom specimens can be collected. The process is user friendly and made for school districts of all resource levels. Test results are available within 24 to 48 hours of collection. Two specimens are collected on each individual. PCR testing is conducted on pooled samples of 24. If the pool is positive, then each individual within the pool is tested. Individual results will be reported by the testing lab directly to OSDH. These results do not need to be reported through SIRS. A CLIA license is not required since testing is conducted at an offsite lab. For more information visit: <a href="#">Operation Expanded Testing</a></p>
---	--	--

**Important Reminders:**

- Ensure you are following the Instructions for Use (IFU) paper insert for each rapid testing kit you use. All tests provided by OSDH through orders placed in BigCommerce are point-of-care testing kits and must be administered by a trained individual. That individual does not have to be a licensed medical provider, but they need to have received training on how to perform the test. **Students and staff may not swab themselves.**
- If your school decides to obtain rapid test kits from someone else other than OSDH, remember to do the following:
  - Ensure the test has received FDA clearance. Some rapid test kits available on the market have not been approved.
  - Ensure a modification has been submitted for your CLIA license to include the additional test.
    - Schools will need to email [clia@health.ok.gov](mailto:clia@health.ok.gov) to request a CLIA Lab Test List. Ensure to include the name and CLIAID in the top section of the form and the increased test volume for all waived tests at the bottom of the page. Once completed, return the form to [clia@health.ok.gov](mailto:clia@health.ok.gov).
  - Ensure the new test has been added to the State Infection Reporting System (SIRS) on the OSDE Single Sign-On platform. Work with Dean Hupp, SIRS administrator, to accomplish that: [dhupp@huppinfotech.com](mailto:dhupp@huppinfotech.com) or (217) 816-4877. As the testing facility, you are responsible for ensuring results are entered into SIRS with the correct testing information. SIRS will then report all results electronically to OSDH.
  - Read the IFU carefully to ensure you are following how and by whom the test should be administered.

## Contact Information:

- **Chelsea Hunt**  
Project 723 Grant Project Director, Executive Director for Innovative Programs  
Oklahoma State Department of Education  
Chelsea.Hunt@sde.ok.gov  
(405) 521-3459
- **Lyric Jackson**  
Project 723 Programs Manager  
Lyric.Jackson@sde.ok.gov  
(405) 521-6474
- **Dean Hupp**  
State Infection Reporting System (SIRS) in OSDE Single Sign-On  
dhupp@huppinfotech.com  
(217) 816-4877
- **Heather Walter**  
Special Projects Coordinator  
Oklahoma State Department of Health Acute Disease Service  
Heather.Walter@health.ok.gov  
(405) 426-8587

Oklahoma Schools COVID-19 Prevention Project 723 Email: [osdh.covidtesting@health.ok.gov](mailto:osdh.covidtesting@health.ok.gov)