



# VDH Testing Team: K-12 Schools Back to School Informational Webinar

## August 25, 2022

[Dr. Gauri Raval, Co-Lead, COVID-19 Testing Team](#)

[Geri Adler, Program Administrator, K-12 Testing Team](#)

[Gretchen Dunne, Program Administrator, K-12 Testing Team](#)

[Karen Mask, School Health Special Projects Coordinator, VDOE](#)

# Agenda

Updated COVID-19 Guidance for K-12 Schools

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***The slides and recording from this presentation will be shared.***

# COVID-19 Guidance for K-12 Schools

- Updated [VDH Interim Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention for Students, Teachers and Staff in Child Care, K-12 Schools, and Day Camp Settings](#) was posted on 8/22/22. *Please note:*
  - In general, masks are not routinely recommended in these settings, indoors or outdoors, except when returning to school after isolation. Any individual who wishes to continue to mask, including those who face higher risk from COVID-19, may do so as an option. Masking is never recommended while the individual is eating, drinking, sleeping, or for children under the age of 2.
- **Isolation and Quarantine:**
  - **Symptomatic persons (regardless of vaccination status)** should begin isolation at home and undergo testing as recommended by their healthcare providers. The day symptoms began should be counted as day 0.
  - Students or staff who come to school or child care with symptoms or develop symptoms while at school or ECE program should be asked to wear a well-fitting mask while in the building and be sent home and pursue medical evaluation and/or testing as appropriate. Some schools may have testing resources available at school. Symptomatic people should be separated from others as much as possible; children should be supervised by a designated caregiver who is wearing a well-fitting mask or respirator until they leave school grounds

# COVID-19 Guidance for K-12 Schools

- **Persons who test positive** (regardless of vaccination status) should isolate themselves at home for at least 5 days. If they are asymptomatic or symptoms are resolving and they have been fever-free for 24 hours, they may return to programming after Day 5.
  - If the individual is able to mask, they should do so through Day 10 OR
  - If the individual is unable or unwilling to mask during this time, these persons should either isolate for 10 full days (including children under age 2), or follow the CDC “test based strategy”, which now includes two negative antigen tests after 5 days of isolation, in addition to being fever-free for 24 hours and with other symptoms improving. The first test should be on day 6 or after, and the second test should be 48 hours after the first test.
  - Schools with the resources to do so may consider offering rapid testing on-site to symptomatic individuals and/or distributing at-home rapid antigen test kits for testing at home.

# COVID-19 Guidance for K-12 Schools

- For persons who have had **recent confirmed or suspected exposure to an infected person** (regardless of vaccination status), quarantine is no longer recommended. These individuals may continue to attend programming as long as they remain asymptomatic.
  - **Masks:** Students/staff that attend programming during the 10 days after exposure may choose to wear a mask around others indoors. The date of last exposure to the person with COVID-19 is considered Day 0.
  - **Testing:** Persons who have had recent exposure may consider testing for COVID-19  $\geq$  5 days after exposure (or sooner, if they are symptomatic), irrespective of their vaccination status. Schools may use available VDH testing resources to support this testing.
  - Test to Stay is no longer routinely recommended. Schools that choose to implement Test to Stay programs can contact VDH for more information on available testing resources and/or guidance. The Test to Stay webpage as well as the K-12 Parent Flowchart have been retired.

# COVID-19 Guidance for K-12 Schools

- Updated CDC Guidance Available here: [Operational Guidance for K-12 Schools and Early Care and Education Programs to Support Safe In-Person Learning.](#)
  - Contains additional detailed guidance on Screening Testing, Ventilation, Cleaning, etc.
- Outbreak reporting requirements:
  - Schools are subject to Board of Health disease reporting regulations. Any person in charge of a school, summer camp, or child care center is required to report suspected outbreaks of any illness that might be spread from one person to another. Schools should refer to the [Rules and Regulations of the Board of Health](#) for requirements. If a known or suspected outbreak of COVID-19 occurs (among students or staff), the school is advised to call their local health department to discuss the situation. The local health department will work with the facility to provide disease control and prevention recommendations to slow or stop the spread of COVID-19. Schools may also use the new [VDH outbreak reporting tool](#) to report suspected outbreaks of COVID-19 or other communicable diseases.

# Overview of VDH K-12 Testing Resources

The following Testing Resources are offered to K-12 Schools in Virginia and are funded by the [CDC ELC Reopening Schools Award](#), through July 2023.

- Vendor-supported PCR screening testing
- At-home rapid antigen test kits for diagnostic testing ***\*\* Schools are not required to participate in screening testing in order to receive at-home rapid antigen test kits \*\****
- Reimbursement for staffing, supplies, and portable HEPA filters purchased by schools, through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between VDH and the Virginia K-12 Public School Division.

**Preschools: those which are co-located with K-12 students and staff are eligible to receive testing resources through this grant.**

**Other child care facilities should contact their Local Health District to receive test kits through the [VDH Child Care Testing Program](#)**

# Virginia School Screening Testing for Assurance (ViSSTA)

- **Vendors conduct routine PCR screening testing** of asymptomatic individuals and provide end-to-end support (staff to conduct testing, supplies, PPE, biohazard waste removal, reporting tools).
- VDH supports schools in **designing and implementing testing in a way that meets the needs of your school community**. Options include:
  - Routine screening testing of asymptomatic individuals
  - Testing of high-risk groups, including those participating in indoor sports or extracurricular activities or those who are at risk from getting very sick from COVID-19 (immunocompromised or with complex medical conditions).
  - Testing during outbreaks or at higher COVID-19 community levels
  - Special event testing: vendor supported PCR testing for special events, such as after vacation periods, or before after a large gathering (such as homecoming, graduation, etc.)

Please see [CDC Operational Guidance for K-12 Schools](#) for more information.

# At-Home Rapid Antigen Diagnostic Test Kits

- VDH provides K-12 Schools with **at-home rapid antigen test kits** for diagnostic testing.
  - The type of test kit distributed depends on current inventory and test expiration dates.
  - Currently, VDH is distributing the eMed-proctored BinaxNow At-Home Antigen Test Card to schools
- Schools may distribute test kits to be **sent home** with K-12 students, staff, and parents to have on hand if they need to consider testing. Examples include:
  - Developing signs/symptoms of COVID-19
  - Being exposed to COVID-19
  - During an outbreak (under guidance of your Local Health District)
  - Returning to school after vacation periods (i.e. winter break), or before attending a large school gathering (i.e. prom)
- Schools may conduct testing at school if they have the resources to do so.
  - eMed proctored BinaxNOW test kits **require** use of the eMed proctor, even if administered by a school nurse. They **do not** require a CLIA waiver, even if the school conducts testing on-site. Other OTC test kits do require a [CLIA waiver](#) if the testing is performed at school.
  - VDH has updated the [eMed parent guide](#) to assist with testing.

# Requesting & Reporting Use of At-Home Rapid Antigen Test Kits

- How can schools request test kits? Fill out the [REDCap survey](#). Schools may request test kits on a weekly basis.
- What do schools need to report? School divisions and schools that receive at-home rapid antigen test kits from VDH must report on the number of tests distributed, and your starting and ending inventory, on a weekly basis.
  - Schools should report using the **same** [REDCap survey](#), on a weekly basis, by *5pm on Tuesday*, to reflect the prior week of test distribution (Monday- Friday of the prior week). Please submit this form even if you did not distribute any test kits in the prior week or you are not ordering additional test kits at this time.
- For public schools, this form may be completed by the school or the division, but please be sure to avoid duplicate entries.

\*\*\* **Schools do not have to participate in screening testing or Test to Stay to receive test kits \*\*\***

# Requesting a Larger Inventory of At-Home Test Kits

- School divisions may request a sizable inventory of at-home rapid antigen test kits to have on hand to easily distribute to their school communities before events, holidays, or in the case of an outbreak (with the guidance of their local health district), if they have the capacity to store these kits.
- If your school or school division is interested in requesting an inventory of pre-positioned test kits, please indicate this in the [Participation Survey](#), or, if you have already completed the interest survey, please email [testinginfo@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:testinginfo@vdh.virginia.gov) or reach out to your K-12 Coordinator.
- Even if schools do request this larger inventory, they can still also continue to request test kits on a weekly basis from VDH.
- Regardless of whether the test kits distributed are from this larger inventory, or a regular weekly shipment, their distribution should be reported in the same way using the weekly [REDCap survey](#).

## Reimbursement for Staff, Supplies and portable HEPA filters and other small filtration systems

**Any reimbursement must be codified into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between your school and VDH. VDH CANNOT reimburse any expenses outside of a signed MOU.**

**With a signed MOU, K-12 public schools in Virginia may receive reimbursement for:**

- **School-based staff** to support planning and implementation of testing programs, including funding for additional staff required to support the testing program (e.g., school-based nurses to advise on medical matters and mitigation/containment, administrative staff to support coordination)
- **Technology and supplies:** funding for supplies utilized to implement the testing program, including technology resources and infrastructure (e.g., outdoor tents) Note that these items are not intended for general use to prevent the spread of COVID-19, but rather to specifically support the planning and implementation of VDH COVID-19 testing programs in which your school division participates.
- **Portable high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) fan(s) or filtration system(s)** or other small items that allow for improved air circulation, including replacement filters.
  - Costs associated with minor or major construction are **not** allowable for reimbursement under CDC grant guidance.

**If your school is interested in an MOU for reimbursement of these items for the 2022-2023 school year, please complete the [K-12 COVID-19 Testing Program Participation Survey](#)**

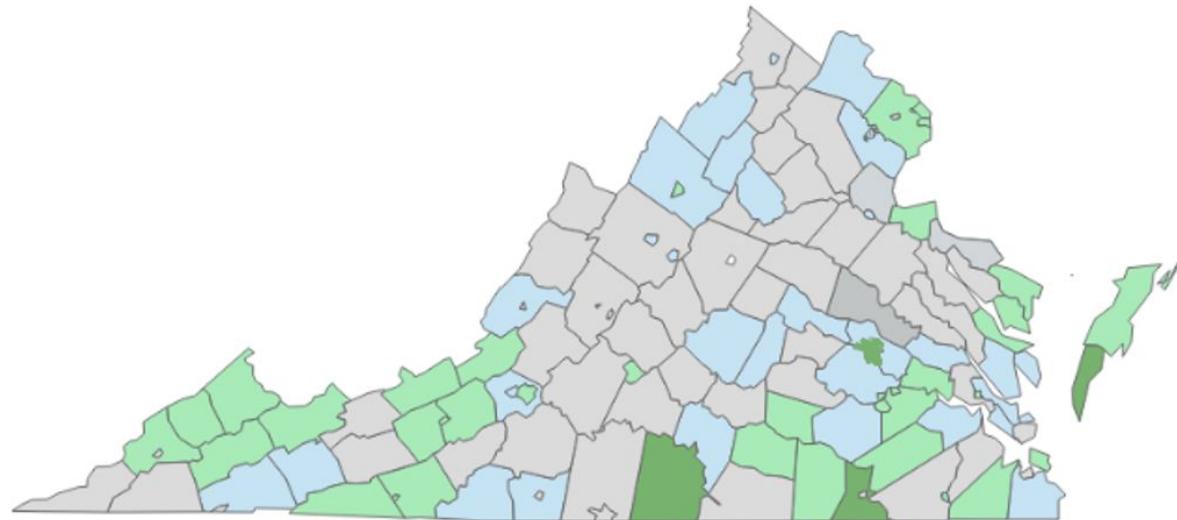
# School Divisions Participating in VDH Testing ( 2022-2023 )

- **In total, 81 public school divisions (61%) are planning to implement COVID-19 testing using VDH resources for the upcoming school year**
  - 40 school divisions are planning to implement **BOTH** screening testing and distribution of at-home antigen test kits
  - 37 school divisions are planning to distribute at-home antigen test kits only
  - 4 school divisions are planning to implement screening testing only

# K-12 Testing Programs

## Testing Across Virginia SY 22/23

- 40 Public School Divisions - Planning to Implement Both Screening and Diagnostic Testing
- 37 Public School Divisions - Planning to Implement Only Diagnostic Testing
- 4 Public School Divisions - Planning to Implement Only Screening Testing



# For all K-12 testing inquiries, please reach out to your designated K-12 Coordinator:

**Brittini Myrick**  
**Southwest Region**

Alleghany County  
Amherst County  
Appomattox County  
Bedford County  
Bland County  
Botetourt County  
Bristol  
Buchanan County  
Campbell County  
Carroll County  
Covington  
Craig County  
Danville  
Dickenson County  
Floyd County  
Franklin County  
Galax  
Giles County  
Grayson County  
Henry County  
Lee County  
Lynchburg  
Martinsville  
Montgomery County  
Norton  
Patrick County  
Pittsylvania County  
Pulaski County  
Radford  
Roanoke  
Roanoke County  
Russell County  
Salem  
Scott County  
Smyth County  
Tazewell County  
Washington County  
Wise County  
Wythe County

**Emily Arnold**  
**Northwest Region**

Albemarle County  
Augusta County  
Bath County  
Buena Vista  
Caroline County  
Charlottesville  
Clarke County  
Culpeper County  
Fauquier County  
Fluvanna County  
Frederick County  
Fredericksburg  
Greene County  
Harrisonburg  
Highland County  
King George County  
Lexington  
Louisa County  
Madison County  
Nelson County  
Orange County  
Page County  
Rappahannock County  
Rockbridge County  
Rockingham County  
Shenandoah County  
Spotsylvania County  
Stafford County  
Staunton  
Warren County  
Waynesboro  
Winchester

**Emily Martin**  
**Central Region**

Amelia County  
Brunswick County  
Buckingham County  
Charles City County  
Charlotte County  
Chesterfield County  
Colonial Heights  
Cumberland County  
Dinwiddie County  
Goochland County  
Greenville County  
Halifax County  
Hanover County  
Henrico County  
Hopewell  
Lunenburg County  
Mecklenburg County  
New Kent County  
Nottoway County  
Petersburg  
Powhatan County  
Prince Edward County  
Prince George County  
Richmond  
Surry County  
Sussex County

**Dominique Jones**  
**Eastern Region**

Accomack County  
Chesapeake  
Essex County  
Franklin  
Gloucester County  
Hampton  
Isle of Wight County  
King and Queen County  
King William County  
Lancaster County  
Mathews County  
Middlesex County  
Newport News  
Norfolk  
Northampton County  
Northumberland County  
Poquoson  
Portsmouth  
Richmond County  
Southampton County  
Suffolk  
Virginia Beach  
West Point  
Westmoreland County  
Williamsburg-James City County  
York County

**Dominique Jones**  
**Northern Region**

Alexandria  
Arlington County  
Fairfax County  
Falls Church  
Loudoun County  
Manassas  
Manassas Park  
Prince William County

# Back to School Tele-Town Halls

VDH offers a tele-town hall resource that can be used to communicate with families and school communities about Back-to-School health & wellness topics for children, including COVID-19 and other childhood immunizations, wellness checks, dentist visits, and other safety strategies.

Schools can collaborate with VDH to make this a customized resource for school communities. To learn more about VDH tele-town hall resources, please visit [VDH Tele-Town Hall Support Webpage](#) or fill out our [K-12 Tele-Town Hall Support Survey](#). We anticipate this resource will be ready to share with schools starting in September.

# Additional Resources

- For up-to-date information on COVID-19 testing program resources for K-12 Schools, please visit the [VDH K-12 Testing Webpage](#)
- Get the latest VDH Guidance for K-12 Schools at the [K-12 Education and Child Care Webpage](#)
- Visit the VDH [Back To School](#) webpage for recommendations and guidance to get your child prepared for the new school year.
- Subscribe to the VDH K-12 Bi-Weekly Newsletter for Schools: [Sign Me Up for the K-12 Newsletter!](#)
- Join us weekly for K-12/Child Care Testing Office Hours, on Tuesdays from 3-4 pm
  - Register here: [K-12/Child Care Testing Weekly Office Hours](#)

## Questions?

- Reach out to your designated K-12 Coordinator or email [testinginfo@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:testinginfo@vdh.virginia.gov)
  - Dominique Jones, Eastern & Northern Region Coordinator, [Dominique.Jones@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:Dominique.Jones@vdh.virginia.gov)
  - Emily Arnold, Northwest Region Coordinator, [Emily.Arnold@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:Emily.Arnold@vdh.virginia.gov)
  - Emily Martin, Central Region Coordinator, [Emily.Martin@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:Emily.Martin@vdh.virginia.gov)
  - Brittini Myrick, Southwest Region Coordinator, [Brittini.Myrick@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:Brittini.Myrick@vdh.virginia.gov)

# Frequently Asked Questions

- **How can schools/divisions request test kits for the upcoming school year, or an MOU for reimbursement of staffing and supplies? Can you clarify what resources are available for public vs. private schools?**
  - Currently, VDH supports all K-12 schools, public and private, with vendor-supported PCR screening testing and at-home rapid antigen test kits for diagnostic testing through the CDC ELC Reopening Schools Award.
  - All **Public and Private** K-12 Schools/Divisions can complete the [K-12 COVID-19 Testing Program Participation Survey](#) to indicate interest in testing resources and be matched with a K-12 Coordinator.
  - **Public School** divisions can also request an MOUs for reimbursement for staffing and supplies to support testing programs, as well as portable HEPA air filtration systems.
- **Who should schools contact to start ordering at-home rapid antigen tests?**
  - Contact your K-12 Regional Coordinator (please see slide deck for your K-12 Coordinator's contact information) or email [testinginfo@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:testinginfo@vdh.virginia.gov).
- **How should K-12 schools/divisions request rapid antigen test kits?**
  - All K-12 schools should request at-home rapid antigen test kits from VDH using the [VDH Test Kit Requesting and Reporting REDCap Survey](#).
- **Can preschools request test kits or screening testing?**
  - Those which are co-located with K-12 students and staff are eligible to receive testing resources through this [survey](#)
  - Other child care facilities should contact their Local Health District to receive test kits through the [VDH Child Care Testing Program](#).

# Frequently Asked Questions

- When filling out the [\*\*VDH Test Kit Ordering and Reporting REDCap survey\*\*](#), should we include inventory carried over from the previous year, or only include test kits newly ordered this school year?
  - In the survey, schools report on their inventory at the start of the week, # of test kits distributed that week, and ending inventory at the end of the week. So, the starting inventory may include test kits you received from VDH previously that you still have in inventory.
- Do the eMed-proctored BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card At-Home Test kits require use of a proctor, if a school nurse is conducting the testing?
  - These test kits must be utilized with the proctor even if there is a school nurse and the school has a CLIA waiver, as per the test kit's FDA Emergency Use Authorization (EUA).
  - A CLIA waiver is NOT required for schools doing testing on-site using the eMed-proctored BinaxNOW test kits. However, use of other over the counter at-home test kits would require a CLIA waiver for testing at school.
  - If the test is being administered at school, then a consent form must be received from the parent prior to administering the test.
- Has there been any extension on expiration dates for the eMed proctored BinaxNow test kits?
  - There has not been any notice of an extension on the expiration dates of the kits. The kits that are currently being distributed expire in January 2023. Please check any test kits you currently have in inventory for their expiration dates, which may be different.

# Frequently Asked Questions

- **In the K-12 School Setting, if someone is an exposed close contact of an individual with COVID-19, are they exempt from quarantine, regardless of whether they are "up to date" on vaccines?**
  - Yes. For exposed but asymptomatic persons (regardless of vaccination status), quarantine is no longer recommended. These individuals may continue to attend programming as long as they remain asymptomatic.
- **What should schools consider for sports teams with regard to routine testing?**
  - Schools and families should be aware that participating in team sports or other extracurricular activities, especially indoor activities involving shouting or singing, increase the risk of SARS-CoV2 transmission. Additional guidance and consideration can be found in the [American Academy of Pediatrics Sports and Physical Activities Guidance](#). CDC provides considerations for routine screening testing for sports teams and other high risk groups in their [operational guidance](#).
- **Are there any updated recommendations on use of nebulizer treatments in K-12 Schools?**
  - During the COVID-19 pandemic, [asthma treatments using inhalers with spacers](#) (with or without a face mask, according to each student's individualized treatment plan) are strongly preferred over nebulizer treatments whenever possible in the school setting.
  - The CDC provides guidance for healthcare settings on [what procedures are considered aerosol generating](#). The use of metered dose inhalers (MDIs), with or without spacers or face masks, is not considered an aerosol-generating procedure. At this time, CDC considers open suctioning of airways and nebulizer administration to be aerosol generating. However, it is uncertain whether aerosols generated from nebulizer treatments are infectious.
  - Use of nebulizers in school should be reserved for instances where children cannot use inhalers, do not have access to an inhaler, or for children who are in significant respiratory distress while awaiting emergency transport.
  - Because they are considered aerosol-generating procedures, suctioning and nebulizer treatments should be performed in a space that limits exposure to others and with minimal staff present, limited to the student and staff member performing the treatment. The staff member should use proper personal protective equipment (N95 respirator, goggles or face shield, gloves and gown). Rooms should be well ventilated or the treatment should be performed outside. After the student receives treatment, the room should undergo routine cleaning and disinfection. Routine cleaning and disinfecting of the room is adequate and the room does not need to be vacated for any period of time. Please refer to a list of [EPA-approved disinfectants](#).

# Frequently Asked Questions

- **Are schools recommended to have a dedicated isolation room?**
  - Students or staff who come to school or child care with symptoms or develop symptoms while at school should be asked to wear a well-fitting mask while in the building and be sent home and pursue medical evaluation and/or testing as appropriate. Some schools may have testing resources available at school. Symptomatic people should be separated from others as much as possible; children should be supervised by a designated caregiver who is wearing a well-fitting mask or respirator until they leave school grounds
- **If the parent/guardian of a symptomatic student chooses not to test the student, is the student still recommended to isolate for 5 days from onset of symptoms?**
  - Schools should reference their policies on students returning to school after an illness.
- **What are the recommendations for schools regarding contact tracing and exposure notifications? Are schools required to contact trace outside of outbreak situations? What additional measures are recommended for outbreaks in schools?**
  - Schools are subject to Board of Health disease reporting regulations. Any person in charge of a school, summer camp, or child care center is required to report suspected outbreaks of any illness that might be spread from one person to another.
  - Schools should refer to the [Rules and Regulations of the Board of Health](#) for requirements. If a known or suspected outbreak of COVID-19 occurs, the facility should call the [local health department](#) immediately to discuss the situation. The local health department will work with the facility to provide disease control and prevention recommendations to slow or stop the spread of COVID-19.
  - Schools may also use the [VDH outbreak reporting tool](#) to report suspected outbreaks of COVID-19 or other communicable diseases.

# Questions?

Please email additional questions to [testinginfo@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:testinginfo@vdh.virginia.gov) or your K-12 Coordinator.