K-12 School COVID Testing Program-FAQ

July 29, 2021

What happens after a school district/school expresses interest in the program?

Interested school districts/schools can visit the **ELC Reopening Schools Marketplace** and search the list of approved laboratory service providers offering COVID-19 screening. School districts/schools should contact the laboratory service provider directly to begin scheduling COVID-19 screening testing.

Program Logistics

Testing alone is not enough to prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in schools. What else should schools be doing to keep students and staff healthy?
Schools should implement layer prevention strategies to protect individuals who are not fully vaccinated from COVID-19. Testing to diagnose COVID-19 is only one potential piece of a school's comprehensive strategy to fight the spread of COVID-19.

More details and strategies to keep students and staff safe can be found here (https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/covid19/K-12Guidance.pdf) and here (CDC Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Prevention | CDC).

How is this program funded?
This school-based COVID-19 screening testing program is supported by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling $134 million with 100 percent funded by CDC/HHS.

Testing Protocol

How will testing work?
Trained school or laboratory service providers will administer the tests on-site at school, using an FDA approved test to detected SARS-CoV-2 virus.

What kind of tests will be used?
Allowable testing includes FDA authorized or approved SARS-CoV-2 PCR, nucleic acid amplification (NAAT), and antigen testing. These tests typically require a nose swab or a sample of saliva from the person being tested.

What happens if someone tests positive?

If an individual in a school tests positive for COVID-19, the individual should self-isolate away from school for 10 days after the start of the illness (or testing date) or otherwise follow the direction of the local public health department. The schools should work with the local public health department to conduct contact tracing and identify necessary public health actions, as appropriate.

Reporting Protocol

How are test results reported?
Laboratory service providers are responsible for reporting test results to KDPH. Schools should work with the local health department to ensure positive COVID-19 test results conduct contact tracing and identify necessary public health actions, as appropriate.