# School Testing Menu for COVID-19
9/7/2021

## Introduction

This document provides many local and convenient testing options for schools, should they decide to pursue screening or diagnostic testing for COVID-19. School testing is an optional decision that should be made at the local level. The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (DHW) Division of Public Health and Idaho's local public health districts are providing this information as schools decide their course of action.

## Why is school testing important?

School testing can help support safer re-opening and continued operation of schools. Testing is one of the strategies that helps students and teachers stay in the classroom and return to a more normal pre-pandemic schooling environment. Early detection of infectious individuals followed by rapid isolation helps keep schools open and keep children, parents, staff, and the community safe. A recent study shows that a weekly screening testing program using point-of-care antigen tests can curb in-school infections by up to 50%[1].

## Key definitions and terms:

| Term | Definition |
|---|---|
| Screening testing | Periodic testing of individuals to identify asymptomatic illness and limit transmission. Frequent testing of the same individual is called serial screening testing. |
| Diagnostic testing | Testing when there is clinical suspicion that an individual may be infected, such as having symptoms or recent exposure to a known case. Examples of diagnostic testing strategies include testing symptomatic teachers, students, staff and testing asymptomatic individuals who were exposed to someone with a confirmed or suspected infection (CDC). |
| PCR test (NAAT) | A molecular test that identifies SARS-CoV-2 genetic material. Considered the gold standard for COVID-19 testing. |
| Pooled testing | Group-level testing that combines samples from several individuals together into a composite sample for testing. When positivity rates are low, this approach increases the number of individuals that can be tested and reduces cost and testing resources (CDC). Positive pooled tests require follow up diagnostic testing for each individual in the group. |
| Rapid antigen tests | A point of care rapid test that identifies SARS-CoV-2 proteins. Frequently used in serial screening testing. |

1. Rockefeller Foundation, *Early Insights and Recommendations for Implementing a Covid-19 Antigen Testing Program in K-12 Schools*

# Screening testing options

| Name | Test type | In school / at home | Cost | Details | Reporting details | Contact info |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| VAULT Test | • Saliva based<br>• PCR<br>• 24-48 hr. result sent to your personal email | In school / home | Free from Idaho state supply | • Specimen collection is proctored via Zoom<br>• Individual tests can be requested by dialing 2-1-1.<br>• Larger quantities of tests can be requested through the Statewide contact, below. | Results will be sent to the submitter's email and the DHW Division of Public Health. | Contact "Statewide" contact, below |
| Operation Expanded Testing HHS/DoD | • Nasal swab<br>• PCR<br>• 48 hr. result time | In school | Free | • K-8 schools are eligible<br>• Some 9-12 schools may eligible<br>• For information: No Cost COVID-19 Testing Program - PerkinElmer Applied Genomics (perkinelmer-appliedgenomics.com) | All positive results are reported back to the patients / consenting adult and the DHW Division of Public Health. | PerkinElmer John Hicks & Arvind Kothandaraman: together@perkinelmer.com |
| GENETWORx | • Nasal swab<br>• PCR, Pooled<br>• 24-48 hr. result time | In school / home | $100 per tube of 30 students (pooled testing) | • GENETWORx can work with school districts to determine the best testing approach<br>• Also offers self-administered testing at home for faculty and staff 18 years and older | Program is managed by reporting dashboards available as part of the contract | Matt Etheridge: partner@genetworxlaboratory.com |

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| | | | | • Test results are delivered in 24 hours from receipt at the lab<br>• Link to details | | |
| Concentric by Ginkgo | • Nasal swab<br>• PCR, Pooled<br>• 24-48 hr. result time | In school | $150 per tube of 30 students (pooled testing) | • Provides all the training and testing materials necessary as well as staffing, lab, and data processing services<br>• Used by K-12 schools in hundreds of communities across the country<br>• Link to details | Program is managed by reporting dashboards available as part of the contract | Dan Rosmarin: drosmarin@ginkgobioworks.com |
| Crush the Curve | • Shallow Nasal Swab<br>• PCR<br>• PCR Pooled<br>• Antigen<br>• 24-hour Results Sent to Email | In School | • PCR: $45<br>• PCR Pooled: $150 per tube of 20 students<br>• Antigen: $15 | • End-to-end Covid-19 management portal for each school<br>• Only one test needed to identify positives - no confirmatory testing<br>• Built-in contact tracing to automatically identify anyone exposed<br>• More information here | • Reports and dashboards available in each school portal<br>• Antigen tracking, resulting, and reporting tools available<br>• Results are sent to the individual (or guardian), the school, and all state and federally required entities. | Lance Sayers: lance@crushthecurveidaho.com |

# Idaho Department of Health and Welfare Funding for School Testing

[REGISTRATION: Idaho K-12 School SARS-CoV-2 Screening and Testing Program (Page 1 of 2) (office.com)](REGISTRATION)

## School Funding for Testing:

*The State Department of Education has funding available for COVID-19 activities in schools. Please visit the following link below for more information.*

*https://www.sde.idaho.gov/federal-programs/prf/*

https://www.sde.idaho.gov/federal-programs/prf/files/ESSER-Use-of-Funds.pdf


## Diagnostic testing options

*Diagnostic testing is available through your local healthcare provider, Vault (listed above) and some pharmacies. Contact your local healthcare provider, "Statewide" contact below, or your local public health district for more information. [Contact information below.]*


**There may be additional free or fee-for-service local testing options. Contact Matthew Burns or your local public health district for more information. [Contact information below.]**

| Location | Name | Email |
|----------|------|-------|
| Statewide | Matthew Burns | Matthew.Burns@dhw.idaho.gov |
| Panhandle | Megan Lowery | mlowery@phd1.idaho.gov |
| North Central | Mike Larson | mlarson@phd2.idaho.gov |
| Southwest | Jamie Avitia | Jamie.avitia@phd3.idaho.gov |
| Central | Liz Myers | LMyers@cdh.idaho.gov |
| South Central | Brenda Gully | bgully@phd5.idaho.gov |
| Southeastern | Evan Bischoff | ebischoff@siph.idaho.gov |
| Eastern | James Corbett | jcorbett@eiph.idaho.gov |

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