

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT COVID-19 TESTING AT SCHOOL

Read on for answers to common questions about the testing program and process. If you have any other questions that aren't answered here, contact your school's administration or email DPHCALL@delaware.gov.

What type of test will my child be given? How long will it take to get results?

As part of our in-school rapid testing program, students and staff members will be given Quidel's rapid antigen COVID-19 test, which will provide results within 10 minutes. This is a nasal swab testing procedure that has been authorized by the FDA under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for use by authorized laboratories for the detection of proteins from SARS-CoV-2, but not for any other viruses or pathogens. If the result of a child's rapid test comes back positive, a follow-up PCR test — requiring a shallow nasal swab — will be given immediately and the sample sent to a lab for analysis. The Delaware Division of Public Health will coordinate having the result sent to you, typically within 24 hours.

Will children be automatically tested if they have COVID-19 symptoms?

If a student or staff member begins to have symptoms of COVID-19 during the day, we will isolate the individual and perform a test as a first course of action. Students will remain isolated and under supervision until a parent or guardian can pick them up and take them home. Staff members will be sent home immediately.

Children displaying symptoms of COVID-19 or another illness should be kept home until a health care provider can diagnose what, if any, health concern is present. Our in-school COVID-19 testing program is meant for students and staff members who are on-site and are asymptomatic — meaning they show no symptoms.

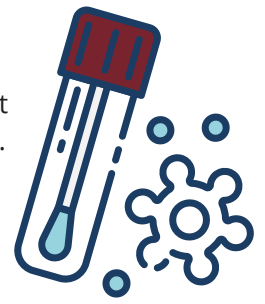
How will it be determined if children need to be tested?

Students authorized by a parent or guardian to participate in the program will be tested on a routine basis — weekly, biweekly, or monthly, as determined by the needs of each school. This regular testing will be done on asymptomatic individuals. In addition, there are several other circumstances that may initiate the testing of students and staff members:

1. If a student tests positive for COVID-19, all students and staff members who came in contact with or were in proximity of that student will be tested.
2. If a staff member tests positive for COVID-19, all students and staff members who came in contact with or were in proximity of that individual will be tested.

How often will my child be tested?

The frequency of student testing will be determined by the school. While our top priority is keeping students and staff members safe and preventing COVID-19 outbreaks — which we know can be supported by frequent testing — we assure parents that we will also take care not to test students unnecessarily, in order to maintain as normal a school-day routine as possible.



How do I sign my child up for routine testing at school?

To authorize your child to participate in this routine testing service, complete the form provided by your school. Please remember that if you believe your child may have been exposed to COVID-19, do not send them to school. Seek testing from your child's health care provider or locate a testing site by visiting de.gov/gettested.

What happens if I do not sign the authorization form for my child to participate in the program?

Students who do not have a signed authorization from a parent or legal guardian cannot be tested as part of this program. If a child cannot be tested and school leadership suspects that child has or may have been exposed to COVID-19, we may isolate that child and send them home. Testing responsibilities will then be on the child's parent or guardian, and the school reserves the right to require a negative test before the student can return to school.

Do I have to give permission every time my child needs to be tested?

No. Once a parent signs the authorization form for our in-school COVID-19 testing program, that permission will be valid through the 2021-2022 school year.

Who will contact me with results? How will I be contacted?

When your child is tested, you will be contacted — whether results are negative or positive — by a professional from Quidel, representing the Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH). You will be contacted according to the information you provided when completing your child's program participation authorization form. We strongly suggest that you provide information for all forms of contact requested, including phone/cellphone, text message, and email. Providing a valid physical mailing address is also important for DPH's contact tracing.

What happens if my child's test is positive for COVID-19?

If your child's rapid test at school has a positive result, they will be placed in a room and separate from other students and staff members until a parent can be reached to take them home. In addition, a follow-up PCR test — requiring a shallow nasal swab — will be taken and the sample sent to a lab for analysis. The Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH) will coordinate having the result sent to you, typically within 24 hours. DPH will also follow up with additional information as needed and provide best practices for having other members of your household tested.

If my child is tested, must they stay home from school until the results come back?

Staff performing the in-school rapid testing will have results within 10 minutes, so there is no need to wait for results to come back. If the result of this rapid test is positive, then the school requires the child to be picked up and remain at home until it can be certain that they are negative for COVID-19. During this time, the child and members of the household should also follow the CDC guidelines for avoiding contact with others based on the time the individual thinks they may have been exposed to COVID-19.

How much will this cost me as a parent? Who is covering other costs?

Our in-school testing program is free. There is no cost to the student/family for testing, processing, or reporting results. There is also no cost to our school for participating in this program. The Delaware Division of Public Health, in partnership with the Quidel Corporation, is covering all associated costs of the program.

Who will administer the test?

The Delaware Division of Public Health and the Quidel Corporation have partnered to implement this program. Quidel will provide qualified health care professionals to administer the rapid test, read results, and report to the parents. In addition, these professionals will send samples of a follow-up PCR test to a laboratory if the rapid test comes back positive. The school's nursing or other staff will not be required.

Will this program in any way detract from my child's education? Are you taking school nurses and staff away from their jobs for this?

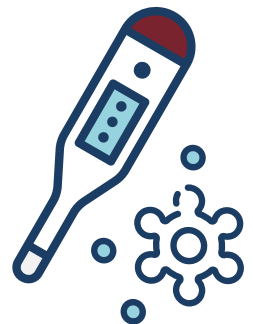
Our testing program is designed to keep children safe and our schools open so that everyone can experience a school day and educational process as close as possible to those experienced before the pandemic. Without the anxiety of potential COVID-19 exposure or outbreak, we feel students and faculty alike will be able to focus more fully on educating and learning, as well as interacting and enjoying being together. None of our school nurses or staff members will be required to administer the testing. Quidel will provide qualified health care professionals to administer the rapid test — as well as a follow-up test for laboratory analysis if the rapid test is positive.

With a vaccine available and so many people vaccinated, why is testing so important?

Even though COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective at preventing disease, many children in Delaware schools remain unvaccinated either by choice or because they are not yet eligible to receive the vaccines currently available. Regular testing is one of the best ways to quickly identify COVID-19 cases and 1) allow an individual with COVID-19 to stay on top of symptoms and seek medical help as needed and 2) prevent outbreaks of the virus.

Who is Quidel?

The Quidel Corporation is a California-based leading diagnostic health care manufacturer serving to enhance the health and well-being of people around the globe through the development of diagnostic solutions that can lead to improved patient outcomes and provide economic benefits to the health care system. Quidel developed its QuickVue antigen test to provide accurate, reliable results for the testing of individuals suspected of having COVID-19 in near-patient testing environments.



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