



State of New Jersey  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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PHILIP D. MURPHY  
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER  
Lt. Governor

JUDITH M. PERSICHILLI, RN, BSN, MA  
Commissioner

September 1, 2021

Dear Chief School Administrators,

On July 14, 2021, the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) and the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), announced via [broadcast](#) that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) awarded \$267 million to NJDOH to assist provide COVID-19 screening testing resources and support to local educational agencies (LEAs) and nonpublic schools. These resources will be provided through the NJDOH K12 Screening Testing Program and will assist each participating LEA and nonpublic school in implementing testing plans that will be developed in collaboration with their local health departments and based on [guidance](#) from the NJDOH. The program can assist LEAs and nonpublic schools with meeting the requirements set forth in [Executive Order 253](#) regarding COVID-19 testing for unvaccinated PreK-12 school personnel.

LEAs and nonpublic schools interested in participating in the program must select one of two options for doing so. The first option will provide access to testing resources through full turnkey testing services provided on-site at schools by state-contracted vendors in the North, Central, and Southern regions of the state. The second option will provide LEAs and nonpublic schools with funding to support testing programs that are already in place and align with the NJDOH screening testing guidelines.

Participation in this program is voluntary for LEAs and nonpublic schools. LEAs and nonpublic schools shall complete the enclosed survey by September 13, 2021 to indicate interest in, or opt-out of participation. Through the [survey](#), the LEA or nonpublic school will select one of the two options outlined above. LEAs that do not respond by September 13, 2021 will be considered not interested and will not be eligible to participate in this program. In order to prevent individual schools within a district from selecting alternate options, please make all requests based on total enrollment and not individual school facility unless your school type operates in only one facility. Additional information regarding the K-12 School COVID-19 Screening Testing Program is on the NJDOH's [COVID-19: Information for Schools](#) webpage.

The HHS has also dedicated \$50 million to provide free COVID-19 testing to K-12 schools throughout the country. This program is run by Affinity Empowering on behalf of Clinical Enterprise, a Eurofins Scientific company. LEAs that are interested should enroll via their website at [www.operationet.com/](http://www.operationet.com/). This program is an additional resource and is separate and apart from the DOH K12 Screening Testing Program.

Governor Murphy is committed to safely reopening schools for full time in-person instruction this fall and these resources will help LEAs and nonpublic schools achieve this goal. If you have any questions regarding the statewide school testing program, please contact [COVID.SchoolTesting@doh.nj.gov](mailto:COVID.SchoolTesting@doh.nj.gov). Thank you.

Judith M. Persichilli, RN, BSN, MA  
Commissioner  
NJ Department of Health

Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D.  
Acting Commissioner  
NJ Department of Education