NJDOH Federal Rapid Antigen Test Kit Distribution for K-12 Schools FAQ

January 26, 2022

The federal government has made a limited supply of rapid antigen (point of care) tests available to New Jersey schools to support in-person learning. The NJ Department of Health (NJDOH) developed an intake survey for schools who may be interested in this resource. It is important to note that schools serving communities of high social vulnerability will be prioritized for this resource, and schools must be able to put these tests to immediate use. Completion of this intake form does not guarantee that schools will be selected to receive the tests.

1. How can my school sign up to be considered for these tests?

After reviewing this document in its entirety, interested schools/districts should complete the intake form via the following link: http://healthsurveys.nj.gov/NoviSurvey/n/zz323.aspx

2. Does submitting the survey guarantee my school will receive test kits?

No, there are a limited number of tests available from the federal government and each jurisdiction is only allowed to submit up to 5 requests per submission period. NJDOH reviews survey requests and based on information shared in the survey, submits priority requests on behalf of New Jersey's schools/districts. Ultimately the federal government makes the final decision on whether to fill a request completely, partially, or not at all based on available inventory and need.

3. What does my school/district need to be considered able to put these tests to immediate use?

Schools requesting to be considered for tests must:

- have a CLIA waiver;
- have staffing capacity to administer the tests; and
- be responsible for reporting test results.

The school must comply with the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the test and the Instructions for Use provided by the manufacturer of the test product. The individual conducting the test must be properly trained. Schools may choose to use the NJDOH state standing order for testing (https://www.state.nj.us/health/legal/covid19/Revised_Standing_Order_For_Covid-19_Testing.pdf) or choose to use their own ordering provider such as a school physician or other medical provider with whom the school has partnered for medical consultation and/or oversight.

4. What is the CLIA process?

The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH), under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), administers the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA) in New Jersey to ensure quality laboratory testing. CLIA requires every facility that tests human

specimens for the purpose of providing information for the diagnosis, prevention, or treatment of any disease or impairment of, or the assessment of the health of a human being to meet certain Federal requirements.

The application for CLIA is online and review and approval are typically completed within 72 hours of receipt by NJDOH. https://www.nj.gov/health/phel/clinical-lab-imp-services/federal_clia.shtml

5. What is the reporting process?

Positive and negative tests must be reported through CDRSS or Simple Report. Simple Report is the most expeditious way to report these point-of-care antigen tests if you do not already have CDRSS access. Positive cases identified shall also be reported to the local health department (LHD).

6. How will schools/districts receive the rapid antigen test kits?

The federal government will ship test kits directly to schools/districts that are selected for this program using the address shared in the intake survey.

7. What can these rapid antigen tests be used for?

The intent of this test kit distribution is to support in-person learning. Therefore, these tests may be used for screening testing, Test to Enter after a period of remote learning, Test to Stay, and/or for assessment of a student who becomes symptomatic while at school.

8. Who can perform specimen collection?

The school must comply with the Emergency Use Authorization for the test and the Instructions for Use provided by the manufacturer of the test product. In general, these tests require the entity to ensure that persons are appropriately trained in performing and interpreting the results. There is no specific requirement as to who can perform or interpret the test provided that they are appropriately trained.

Please note if using the NJDOH standing order, specimens must be collected by a licensed healthcare provider, licensed pharmacist (as authorized by the Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Consumer Affairs) or medically-supervised, trained individual authorized to collect specimens for COVID-19.

9. How many distributions can I expect?

Per the federal government, each school/district selected for distribution will receive one allotment of rapid antigen test kits that should last approximately two weeks. Different schools/districts will be identified for each subsequent federal distribution. Schools are encouraged to develop their own testing plans to help keep schools safely operating in-person.

https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/K-12_screening_testing_guidelines.pdf

https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/K-12-test-to-stay.pdf

https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/RecommendationsForLocalHealthDepts_K12Schools.pdf

10. If my school is not selected for the federal test kit distribution, where can I find support for testing?

Operation Expanded Testing (OpET) is a federal program that increases access to testing at no-cost to participating schools. Please see Operation Expanded Testing | CDC for more information. For schools not participating in the NJDOH K-12 Screening Testing Program, NJDOH does not have staff to administer tests on behalf of schools. As a reminder, schools may use American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) funding to support COVID-19 testing in schools.

11. Where can I send questions about testing in schools?

Questions may be referred to covid.schooltesting@doh.nj.gov.