


# At-A-Glance School Testing Considerations



## Summary

- Antigen tests have proven effective in identifying individuals with infectious levels of the virus (and all known variants) that causes COVID-19
- NJDOH recommends that antigen tests be considered the primary option for detecting COVID-19 in schools
- All testing strategies in K-12 schools should be developed in consultation with local health departments



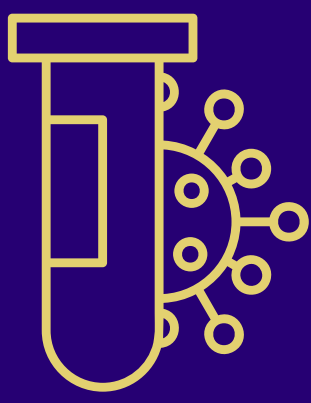
### Antigen Testing for Symptomatic or Exposed Individuals

**Antigen tests (self-tests or over the counter (OTC) tests) can be used both for:**

- Testing symptomatic individuals
- Testing after exposure to COVID-19

**When students or staff members develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19 schools should provide:**

- 2 OTC tests to each symptomatic individual
- 3 OTC tests to each person with a known exposure to COVID-19



### When to Use Antigen Test for Screening Purposes

**At high COVID-19 Community Levels, consider implementing screening testing:**


- High risk extracurricular activities (close contact sports, choir, band, theater)
- Large events (prom, group travel, tournaments)
- Returning from breaks (ex: beginning of school year & returning from holiday)

**At medium or high COVID-19 Community Levels, schools serving students who are at risk for getting very sick with COVID-19 (e.g., immunocompromised, complex medical conditions) may consider implementing screening testing**



### Reporting Test Results

- Executive Order 302 and Executive Directive #21-011 requires that all schools complete the Surveillance for Influenza and COVID-19 (SIC) Module in the Communicable Disease Reporting and Surveillance System (CDRSS), available at <https://cdrs.doh.state.nj.us>
- Schools should have a policy for staff and students to report OTC test results back to school
- After receiving positive test result from an individual, schools should follow exclusion policy
- Weekly SIC module reporting does NOT replace the need for schools to notify their local health department when they become aware of COVID-19 cases or possible outbreaks



### Equitable Access to Testing

- **Schools** may join the NJDOH K-12 Testing Program for school year 2022-2023
- **Schools** should consider storage space and utilization when making requests to vendors for test kits
- **Schools** should provide education to school community regarding the importance of testing for COVID-19 in line with NJDOH CDS K-12 Testing Guidance
- **Federal** program to supply test kits to schools has been renewed through January 2023
- **Prioritization** for federal test distribution is placed on schools in communities with high social vulnerability index (SVI)
- **Questions** regarding school testing? Contact [covid.schooltesting@doh.nj.gov](mailto:covid.schooltesting@doh.nj.gov)