

# COVID-19 TESTING PROGRAM Options for K-12 School Year 2021-2022

## State Funded Testing Program Options Available for School Year 2021-2022

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) will be offering two testing program options for schools during school year 2021-2022. The program options include:

- 1. State-Contracted Vendor Testing Option:** Schools may choose to use a state-contracted vendor that is available to all schools performing testing of students and staff. A vendor will be provided at no cost to schools that elect to participate in this program option.
- OR --
- 2. Independent Testing Option:** Schools may choose to perform testing on their own or in partnership with a non-state sponsored vendor. NCDHHS will provide tests at no cost to all schools who elect to perform testing independently.

Additionally, public schools participating in either testing option are eligible to receive **Funding for Temporary School Health Staff**. NCDHHS will provide schools that choose this additional support, and meet the requirements of this program, with funds to hire a registered nurse (RN), licensed practical nurse (LPN), and/or unlicensed assisted personnel (UAP) to support student health.

## We encourage all schools and districts to opt-in to the COVID-19 testing program by September 13, 2021.

More detailed information, guidance, and an opt-in registration form will be sent to all school and district superintendents and school health administrators in early July.

Schools may tailor testing plans to fit their needs. Participation is not required.

If you have questions about the process, contact [K12covidtesting@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:K12covidtesting@dhhs.nc.gov).

More information is available at: [covid19.ncdhhs.gov/SchoolTesting](https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/SchoolTesting)

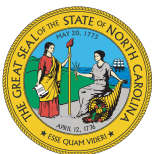


Between December 2020 and June 2021, 58 school districts, charter schools, and private schools participated in NCDHHS's COVID-19 School Testing program, receiving over 70,000 rapid tests to perform diagnostic and routine screening testing. Schools reported that testing:

- increased confidence from families that in-person learning was safe; and
- allowed schools to rapidly identify and quickly quarantine suspected cases of COVID-19, which got students and staff back into the classroom faster.

### NCDHHS encourages schools to implement COVID-19 screening testing programs for the upcoming school year.

Testing will remain a crucial mitigation measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in schools. Screening testing is particularly important given that students under 12 do not yet have the option to receive a COVID-19 vaccination.



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