



COVID-19

School Testing for COVID-19

Updated Mar. 15, 2022

It's critical that K-12 schools implement safety measures to keep schools open and students and staff healthy and safe from COVID-19. One key measure is regular COVID-19 testing in schools.

When used with vaccination, physical distancing, and properly wearing a mask, regular COVID-19 testing in schools can:

- Help reduce community spread of COVID-19, keeping schools open and students in classrooms, and protecting students and staff.
- Serve as an early warning to help schools identify COVID-19 cases early and stop an outbreak before it starts.
- Provide access to COVID-19 tests for families who may not be able to get them otherwise.
- Increase confidence among students, parents, and school staff around continuing in-person learning and other activities.



CDC urges you to implement COVID-19 testing programs at schools within your district and support and encourage program participation among parents and staff.



Learn more about [Testing for COVID-19 in Schools](#)

Find tools and resources to start and support school-based testing:

- [CDC's Communication Toolkit for Schools](#): Letters, FAQs, social media posts, posters, and flyers to reach parents and educators
- [ELC Reopening Schools](#): Resources to launch and maintain a school testing program, including details on available funding for your jurisdiction
- [Open and Safe Schools](#) [↗](#): Toolkit to support state and public health leaders and school leaders in starting or continuing testing programs (from the Shah Family Foundation)
- [Rockefeller Foundation's K-12 Playbook](#) [↗](#): Detailed, step-by-step guidance to design and start or continue testing programs in schools

Communication Toolkit for Schools

This toolkit includes materials that school administrators can use to help promote regular COVID-19 testing programs and encourage participation among parents, students, and school staff. Many of these materials are customizable and can be adapted according to the school's needs.

 For STLT Health Departments, Visit the [Communication Resource Center](#) for additional customizable school COVID-19 testing materials.

Videos to Answer Common Questions

Short videos that answer common questions about regular school testing for COVID-19. Use these links to go directly to these videos to download or share.

Why is it important for your child to participate in regular COVID-19 testing at school?

How does your child benefit from school-based COVID-19 testing?

What will your child's testing experience be like?

What should you do if your child tests positive for COVID-19?

1/4

Customizable Letters and Q&As

Letters

Letters explaining school testing for parents and staff.

[Letter for Parents](#)

[Letter for Staff](#)

Questions & Answers

Sample Q&As to answer questions on school testing from parents and staff.

[FAQs for Parents](#)

[FAQs for Staff](#)

Sample Social Media

Sample social media messages and graphics targeting parents and school staff. School districts and health departments can adapt these messages for their locations and needs.

[See social media messages and graphics](#)

Printable Posters & Flyers

Sample posters and flyers targeting parents, students, and school staff



As a teacher, part of your job is to help keep your students safe. Regular COVID-19 testing at school is a quick, easy, and free way to help keep your students, fellow teachers, and the community safe. By opting in you can help us identify cases early and stop outbreaks before they happen.

Why Should I Sign Up?

Regular testing helps identify COVID-19 cases quickly and early, which can help us stop an outbreak before it happens.

Who is Eligible?

Testing will be offered to everyone – all students and staff – even if they don't have symptoms of COVID-19.

What Type of Tests Are Used?

The tests our school uses are quick and easy, given by trained professionals.

Help keep our school safe and open. [Sign up for regular COVID-19 testing.](#)



COVID-19 School Testing (Flyer):

Flyer for teachers with information on school COVID-19 testing programs.

File details: 7 MB, 1 page

View PDF in:

English

WHY I SUPPORT SCHOOL COVID-19 TESTING:

Sign up for school COVID-19 testing to help stop an outbreak before it starts and keep schools open for in-person learning.

“Our school is open, our students are learning, and we are able to work with families to keep kids in school!”

Head of school that provides weekly testing, MD



cdc.gov/covid19-school-testing

Why I Support School Testing (Poster):

Poster for school administrators promoting COVID-19 testing at school.

File details: 4 MB, 1 page

View PDF in:

English 

WHY I SUPPORT SCHOOL COVID-19 TESTING:

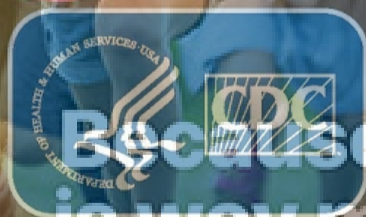
“We, as parents, have peace of mind and therefore our child is more at peace.”

Elementary Parent, CA

COVID-19 testing in schools helps keep students in class and

doing the things

To help keep your children safe, our school is offering regular COVID-19 testing. Sign your child up today.



Because recess is way more fun with friends.

cdc.gov/covid19-school-testing

Why I Support School COVID-19 Testing (Poster):

Poster for parents promoting COVID-19 testing at school

doesn't keep them home. Free, quick, and easy COVID-19 tests at school help protect everyone and keep school open for learning.

File details: 1 MB, 1 page

View PDF in:

English P.E. Is More Fun With Friends (Poster):

Poster for parents promoting COVID-19 testing at school.

**To help keep your children safe,
our school is offering regular COVID-19 testing.**

File details: 1 MB, 1 page

View PDF in:

English

Spanish



Now that your kids are back at school, let's make sure COVID-19 doesn't keep them home. Free, quick, and easy COVID-19 tests at school help protect everyone and keep school open for learning.



[Get questions with school testing](#)

English P.E. Is More Fun With Friends (Poster):

Poster for students promoting COVID-19 testing at school.

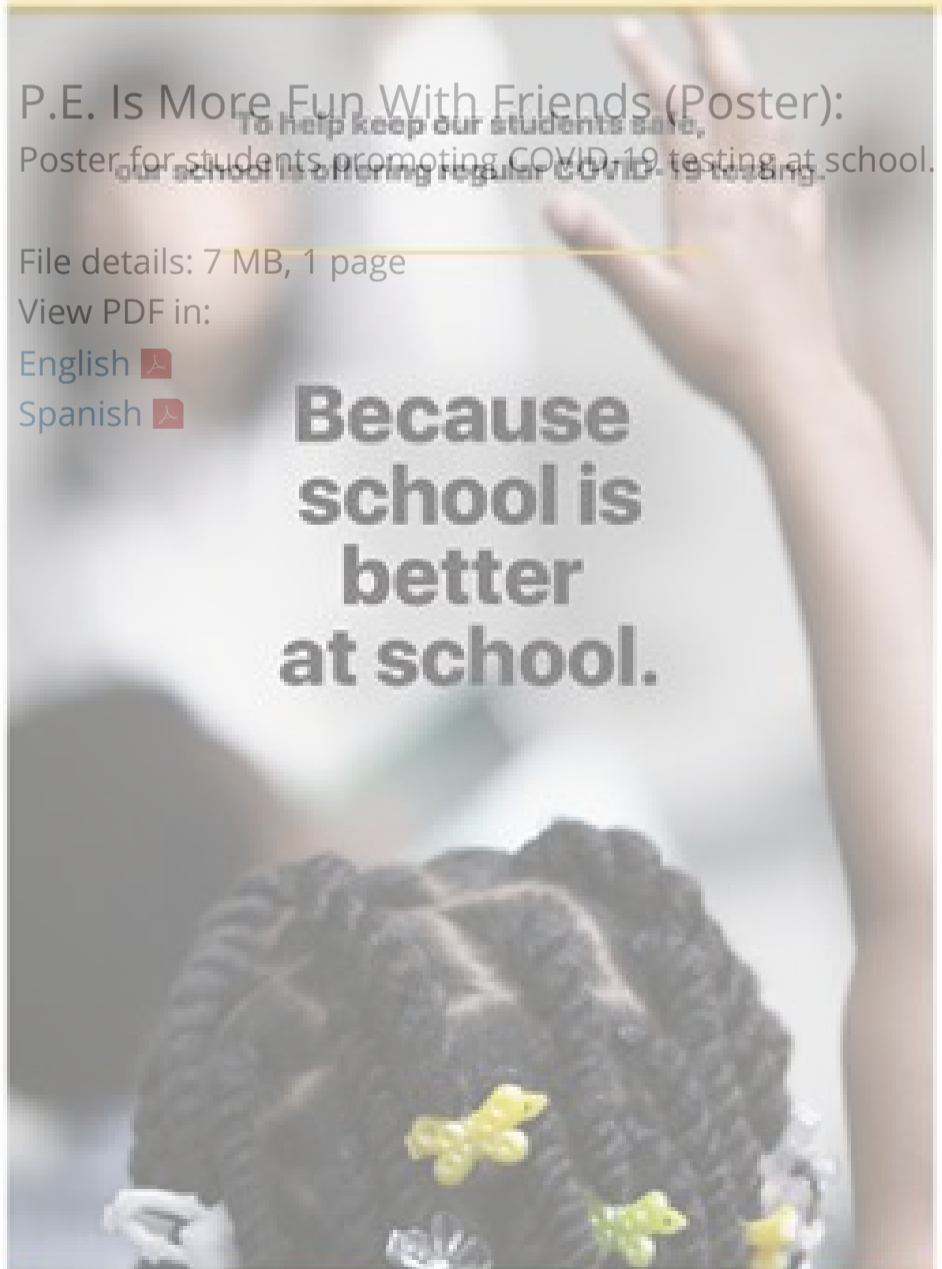
**To help keep our students safe,
our school is offering regular COVID-19 testing.**

File details: 7 MB, 1 page

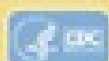
View PDF in:

English

Spanish



Now that schools are reopening, it's more important than ever that you and our students stay safe. Free, quick, and easy COVID-19 tests help protect everyone and keep school open for learning. You may get questions from our students or parents — make sure you know about our school's COVID-19 testing program.



[Get questions with school testing](#)

School is Better at School (Poster):

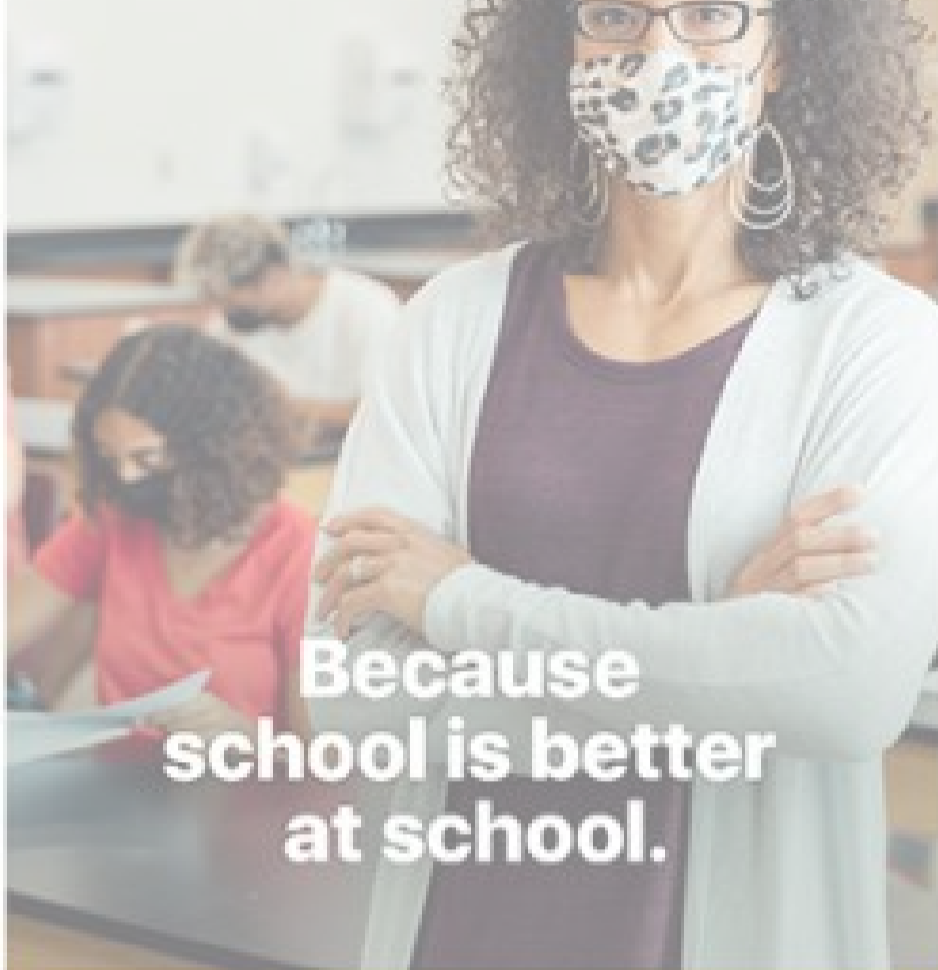
Poster for parents promoting COVID-19 testing at school.

To help keep our students safe,
our school is offering regular COVID-19 testing.

File details: 1 MB, 1 page

View PDF in:

English 



Now that schools are reopening, it's more important than ever that you and our students stay safe. Free, quick, and easy COVID-19 tests help protect everyone and keep school open for learning. You may get questions from our students or parents — make sure you know about our school's COVID-19 testing program.



[cdc.gov/schools/return-to-school](#)

School is Better at School (Poster):

Poster for teachers promoting COVID-19 testing at school.

To help keep everyone safe,
our school is offering regular COVID-19 testing.

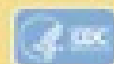
File details: 1 MB, 1 page

View PDF in:

English 



So you and your friends can have more fun together, and no one gets sick, our school is now offering free COVID-19 tests. Regular COVID-19 testing is quick, easy, and keeps you doing the things you love. Get tested at school to help stop an outbreak before it starts.



[cdc.gov/schools/return-to-school](#)

School is More Fun with Friends (Poster):

Poster for students promoting COVID-19 testing at school.

**To help keep everyone safe,
our school is offering regular COVID-19 testing.**

File details: 5 MB, 1 page

View PDF in:

English 

Spanish 



Regular COVID-19 testing is quick, easy, and keeps you doing the things you love. Get tested at school to help stop an outbreak before it starts and to make sure you and your friends can keep having fun together.



www.cdc.gov/school-testing

It's More Fun Playing With Friends (Poster):

Poster for students promoting COVID-19 testing at school.

File details: 3 MB, 1 page

View PDF in:

English 

Spanish 



Now offering regular COVID-19 testing at school.

Free, quick, and easy COVID-19 testing helps protect students, teachers, and our community. And it helps keep your kids doing the activities they love, safely. Together we can stop COVID-19 outbreaks through regular testing.

Why Should I Opt In?

Regular testing helps identify COVID-19 cases quickly and early, which can help us stop an outbreak before it happens.

Who is Eligible?

Testing will be offered to everyone – all students and staff – even if they don't have symptoms of COVID-19.

What Type of Tests Are Used?

The tests our school uses are quick and easy, given by trained professionals.

Help keep our school safe and open. Sign your child up for regular COVID-19 testing.



School COVID-19 Testing Program (Flyer):
Flyer for parents with information on school COVID-19 testing programs.

File details: 2 MB, 1 page

View PDF in:

English

Spanish

Now offering regular COVID-19 testing at school.

Free, quick, and easy COVID-19 testing helps protect students, teachers, and our community. And it helps keep your classroom open and your students learning. Together we can stop COVID-19 outbreaks through regular testing.

Why Should I Sign Up?

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School COVID-19 Testing Program (Flyer):
Flyer for school staff with information on school COVID-19 testing programs.

File details: 1 MB, 1 page

View PDF in:

English

Because you don't want your kids bringing COVID-19 home from school.

Your school is currently offering free, quick, and easy regular COVID-19 tests to help protect students, teachers, and our community. And it helps keep your kids doing the activities they love, safely. No matter what grade your child is in, they are eligible for testing, even if they don't have symptoms of COVID-19. Help us identify cases early and stop outbreaks before they happen by enrolling your children for testing today.

Why Should I Opt In?

Regular testing helps identify COVID-19 cases quickly and early, which can help us stop an outbreak before it happens.

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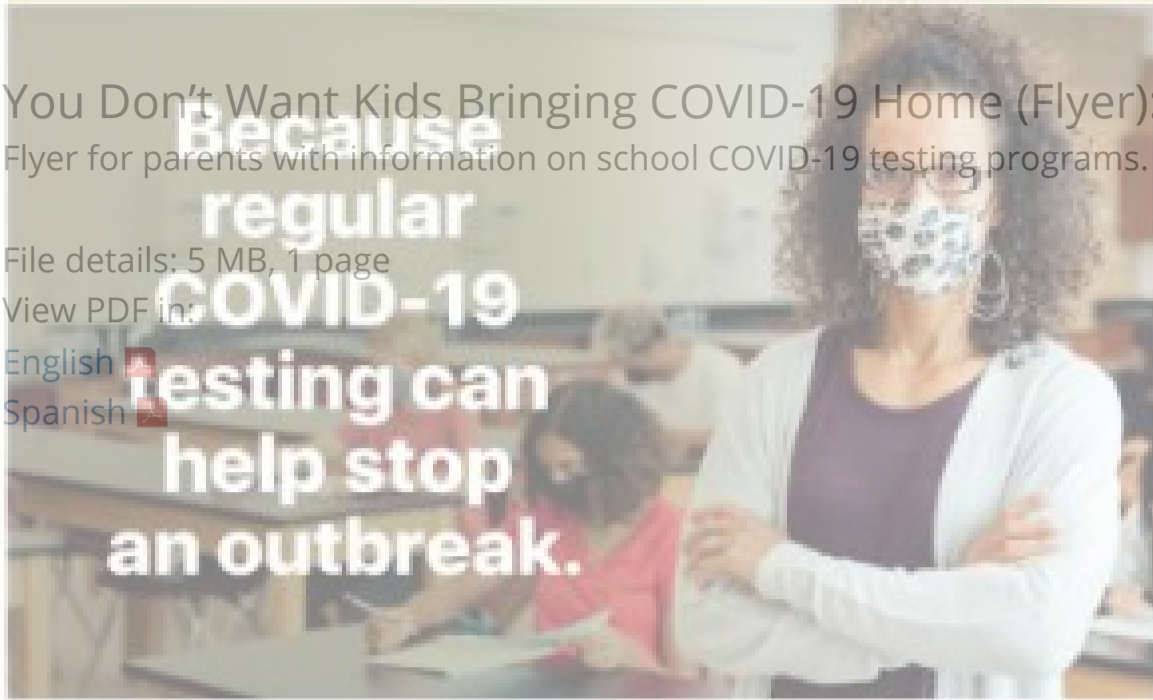
Help keep our school safe and open. Sign your child up for regular COVID-19 testing.

You Don't Want Kids Bringing COVID-19 Home (Flyer): Flyer for parents with information on school COVID-19 testing programs.

File details: 5 MB, 1 page

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Related Pages

- › [K-12 Schools Guidance](#)
- › [Testing Strategies for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#)
- › [Testing Strategies for SARS-CoV-2](#)
- › [Considerations for Case Investigation and Contact Tracing in K-12 Schools and Institutions of Higher Education \(IHEs\)](#)
- › [Types of Masks](#)

More Information

[Open and Safe Schools](#) 

[Rockefeller's K-12 Playbook](#) 

[Understanding the Value and Feasibility of Routine COVID-19 Testing in Schools](#) 

[Case Study Video](#) 

[New Evidence for Safely Reopening K-12 Schools: Testing Can Reduce Infections and Increase Confidence](#) 

[When to Test – COVID-19 Testing Impact Calculator](#) 

[When to Test – K-12 Playbook](#) 