

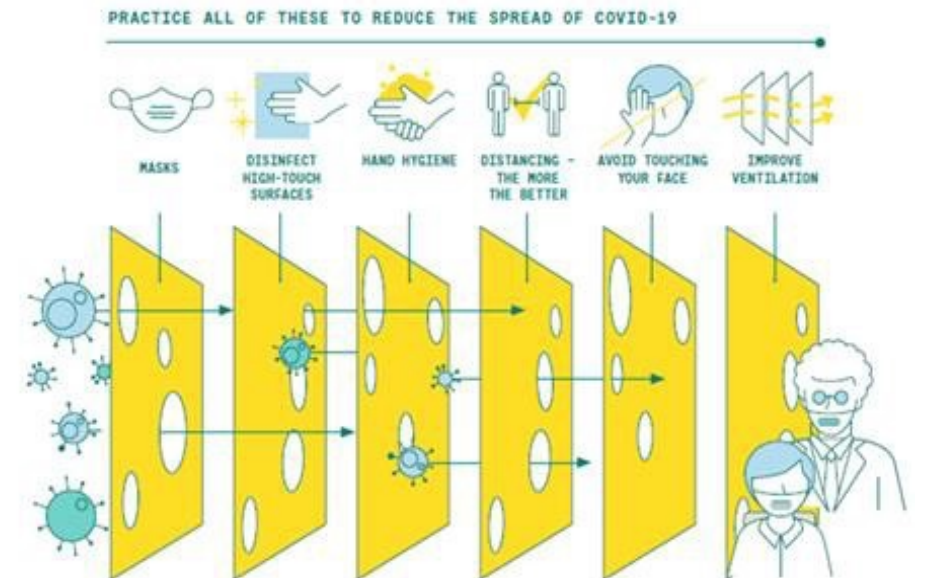
COVID-19 Screening Testing for K-12 Schools

August 17, 2021



What's the *purpose* of testing in K-12 schools?

- **Layering Prevention**
 - Identify cases
 - Increase confidence
- **Improving Mitigation**
 - Identify in-school transmission
 - Address root causes
 - Understand efficacy of safety protocols and mitigation efforts
- **Maximize Learning**



School-Based Screening Testing Program

- Offering voluntary screening testing program using a pooled testing approach during the 2021-2022 school year for:
 - Public
 - Private
 - Charter
 - Parochial
 - Special schools
- School/district develops testing plan

Considerations for Screening Testing in Schools

Suggested priorities for screening testing:

- Elementary school students—unvaccinated
- Use where masking and distancing are harder to achieve:
 - Athletes
 - Special education classrooms



TESTING RECOMMENDATIONS BY LEVEL OF COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION

	LOW TRANSMISSION¹	MODERATE TRANSMISSION (YELLOW)	SUBSTANTIAL TRANSMISSION (ORANGE)	HIGH TRANSMISSION (RED)
Students	Do not need to screen	Offer screening testing for students who are not fully vaccinated at least once per week		
Teachers and staff	<i>Offer screening testing of teachers and staff not fully vaccinated at least once per week</i>			
High-risk sports ² and activities ³	At least once per week for not fully vaccinated	Twice per week for not fully vaccinated	Cancel or hold activities virtually, unless all are fully vaccinated	
Low- and Intermediate-risk sports	<i>Do not need to screen</i>	At least once per week for not fully vaccinated		
<p>¹ Levels of community transmission defined as total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days (low, 0-9; moderate 10-49; substantial, 50-99; high, ≥100) and percentage of positive tests in the past 7 days (low, <5%; moderate, 5-7.9%; substantial, 8-9.9%; high ≥10%).</p> <p>² The NCAA has developed a risk stratification for sports. See https://ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/ssi/COVID/SSI_ResocializationDevelopingStandardsSecondEdition.pdf. Examples of low-risk sports are diving and golf; intermediate-risk sport examples are baseball and cross country; high-risk sport examples are football and wrestling.</p> <p>³ High-risk extracurricular activities are those in which increased exhalation occurs, such as activities that involve singing, shouting, band, or exercise, especially when conducted indoors.</p>				

PCR Pod Pooling: How it Works

STEP 1 - Pods self-swab

Individuals in pod (e.g., classroom) self-swab and place swabs into single tube. Takes minutes to complete for an entire pod.

STEP 2 - Test the pools

Each tube is then run using one test at a local lab, and the pod is provided with one result.

STEP 3 - Get results

Schools use results to make more informed decisions, detect the virus earlier and mitigate spread.

Only positive pools result in further action.
Next steps are decided by the school.

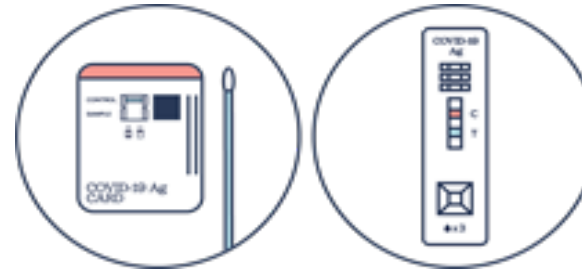


POOL #0001

Test Result:

Negative

Testing Options Following a Positive Pool



Follow-Up Test Option	Pooled + BinaxNOW Antigen Test	Pooled + PCR Test
Location	Onsite	Onsite swab + lab
Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get results faster than PCR tests • Fewer instructional hours missed • Requires additional work by school staff to do follow-up testing and reporting • Requires trained staff to collect the sample • May require additional PCR testing if no one tests positive in follow-up testing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May require additional work by school staff to collect and send off swabs • Very accurate • Unvaccinated students and staff in positive pool will need to quarantine until individual test results are received

Support Available for Schools/ Districts

Offering support (resources and staffing) for the entire testing process, including:

- Testing Coordinator and testing staff
- Registration
- Testing materials
- Collecting, shipping and testing samples
- Reporting results through online portal
- Communication resources

School/District Expectations

- Coordinator
- Building Liaison
- Communications Lead

Brief Overview

Preparation

- Develop testing plan and complete application to become Authorized School
- Review plan with testing vendor to ensure school readiness for testing (supplies, training, staffing, adequate space, etc.)
- Vendor arranges staff support as needed and testing resources
- Vendor provides training to school staff participating in testing
- Vendor works with schools on parent/guardian communications (instructions, FAQs, etc.)

Implementation

- Vendor onsite to support the end-to-end process, from sample labeling to collection
- Vendor provides daily updates on students consented for testing
- Vendor ships samples to lab

- Vendor will establish a local point-of-contact to follow-up with the school's designated-contact
- Customer service support

Ongoing Support

Application Process

To participate in the Missouri K-12 Screening Testing Program, schools/districts will need to complete the following:

- **Online Authorized School Application**
 - Open throughout the 2021-2022 school year, depending on availability of funding
- **Statement of Assurances**
- **Testing Plan Worksheet**
 - Information describing how the school/district will implement the testing program in each participating school

Questions?

[Email: k12screeningtesting@health.mo.gov](mailto:k12screeningtesting@health.mo.gov)

[Website: Educational Institutions | COVID-19 Outbreak | Health & Senior Services \(mo.gov\)](#)

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