

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

# Rapid COVID-19 Testing for K-12 Schools

### Why is this testing being done now?

Deploying these rapid tests to K-12 school districts will help to quickly identify and isolate asymptomatic carriers and prevent further spread of COVID-19 to allow schools to remain open to in-person learning.

### Will students be tested?

No, only K-12 teachers, staff and administrators are eligible for this testing.

### Is testing mandatory?

No, but it is highly recommended for the safety of both staff and students.

### Will testing be conducted in all schools?

Schools who elect to conduct rapid testing will sign up through NDDOH; the school will coordinate with a state liaison to receive initial testing and technological support training.

### Is the testing open to the public?

No. The public should visit [health.nd.gov/testnd](https://health.nd.gov/testnd) for testing locations open to the public.

### Do I have to pre-register for the test?

Yes, school districts will provide information to staff on where to register.

### What is the testing process?

Tests are administered with a nasal swab in the lower portion of the nose. Participants will swab their own nose under supervision at the testing site.

- **What if I test positive?**

Isolate at home immediately. Visit [health.nd.gov/covidpositive](https://health.nd.gov/covidpositive) for more information and a case investigator will be in touch within 24 hours.

- **What if I have a negative test, but still have symptoms?**

Individuals who test negative, but still have symptoms should get a PCR test.

- **What if I test negative?**

Individuals should continue to monitor for symptoms. COVID-19 testing isn't a substitute for basic measures to prevent spread of COVID-19, including physical distancing, wearing a mask, washing hands, sanitizing frequently touched surfaces and avoiding crowded indoor spaces.

### **Can I get tested if I'm in isolation or quarantine?**

No, staff should wait to participate until after being released from isolation and quarantine.

### **Can I get tested if I'm symptomatic?**

While the test CAN be administered to symptomatic participants, those individuals should NOT be on a school site if they exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19; those individuals should distance themselves per CDC guidance and obtain a PCR test.

### **Do I need to get tested if I've previously tested positive for COVID-19?**

Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days should not get tested.

### **How long do I have to wait for results, and how do I get them?**

Results will typically be available onsite within 15 minutes.

### **Is the testing free, and who is paying for it?**

Yes, the testing is free for K-12 personnel. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in August made a \$760 million investment in BinaxNOW tests, purchasing the first 150 million units to ensure equitable distribution. North Dakota is scheduled to receive 220,000 tests by the end of the year, with more anticipated in the new year.

### **How many school districts are receiving BinaxNOW tests?**

A few schools are initially receiving the tests. It's anticipated that additional districts will receive the tests in the coming days and weeks and continue weekly testing of staff.

### **How is a rapid test different than a traditional PCR test?**

While most PCR test results typically take a few days between when the sample is collected and the individual is notified, rapid tests are a convenient, highly portable and affordable tool for detecting active coronavirus infections. Individuals can test and get a test result in as little as 15 minutes, allowing people who test positive to isolate more quickly.

### **How accurate are rapid tests?**

Rapid tests have an extremely low false-positive (where you test positive, but don't actually have the virus) rate. They do have a higher false-negative rate than PCR tests but are still able to catch approximately 50 percent of positive, asymptomatic cases. Even if you test negative, you should continue to practice COVID-19 prevention measures, including wearing a mask and physical

distancing. Getting a false-positive is unlikely. PCR tests that are done in the lab continue to be the gold standard test for COVID-19 and they are extremely accurate.