

STAY SAFE MN

COVID-19 Testing K-12 Schools Testing Update

April 27, 2021

mn MINNESOTA

K-12 Schools Testing

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In schools:

- Background
- Expanding the Staff Program:
Student testing
- Timing



The Winning Trifecta

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COMMUNICATIONS



- ① Wash your hands
- ② Get tested when sick
- ③ Stay 6 feet from others
- ④ Wear a mask
- ⑤ Stay home when able

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TESTING



COVID-19 Testing for Kids & Families

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VACCINATIONS



3 COVID-19 vaccines
are now available in Minnesota.


Johnson & Johnson


Moderna


Pfizer

Each are nearly 100% effective against hospitalization.

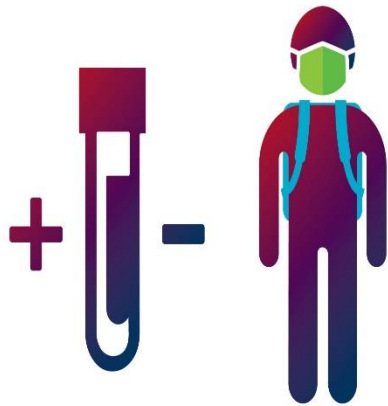
Each are highly effective against severe illness.

ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES, MINNESOTA 

The 3-step Plan to Mitigate COVID-19

Testing – Expansion of Options

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COVID-19 Testing for Kids & Families

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In schools:

- Staff testing: Continue!
- Students: ADD!

Step Two: Testing

All students are encouraged to be tested regularly, regardless of symptoms.

- All middle and high schools are strongly encouraged to offer onsite testing options for students.
 - Every other week aligned with the staff testing schedule
 - Weekly for students participating in school sponsored sports
- **WHY?** To reduce barriers for students and families by making COVID-19 tests more accessible to young Minnesotans

Schools choosing to develop and implement an onsite student testing program may:

1. Host in-person COVID-19 testing events for all middle and high school students every two weeks.
2. Make Zoom-enabled tests available every two weeks for any middle and high school student to pick up, take home, and return to school to be sent to the lab.
 - For this option, schools should allow students who do not have a home mailing address or who have limited access to technology to take the test in a school building.
3. A combination of the two.

Self-Administered Tests

- Should use the supply they have on hand first—these tests can be used for staff AND students now.
- Testing process must be supervised by a trained adult

Zoom-Enabled Tests

- For student use only
- May be completed on site or at home and brought back to school
- Will be test kit only, no bio bag or shipping supplies intended to ship from school

All public schools should continue to accept COVID-19 tests for UPS mailing from students who have used an at-home Vault test through the State of Minnesota's at-home testing program. To ensure students receive their results in a timely manner:

- Create a pick-up and drop-off schedule that aligns with the school's assigned testing day.
- Student test samples dropped off at school should be included in the larger shipment sent within 24 hours of your assigned testing day.

Verification of Consent

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- Students who are able to consent to Vault testing (age 18 and older) and parents or guardians for students who are unable to consent to Vault testing provide consent directly to Vault.
- Schools that are supervising testing directly may want to obtain verification that the student has provided the necessary consent to Vault.
- Each school must evaluate their own legal obligations and testing program and determine whether verification of consent is necessary for their testing program.

Anyone who has already been trained to supervise saliva testing for staff can continue to serve in that role for students. If a school would like to train additional staff to assist with student testing they have some options:

- **Recording of our training webinar from 12/23/2020:** <https://youtu.be/oL8-3HUQUdI>
- **Training video provided by Vault Health:** <https://docsend.com/view/f9hbww2jcfp8fe46>. They will need to enter an email address to start the training

Only staff who have gone through one of the training modules should supervise staff or student testing.

Schools can start using the test kits they have on hand for onsite testing with students as soon as Monday, April 26.

- Updated Collection Report and Ordering Form survey went live on Thursday, April 22. <https://surveys.mn.gov/s/3rat1g>
- Zoom-enabled tests will ship from the Vault warehouse and should be shared with students in alignment with the school's assigned testing schedule.
- If not registered for the staff testing program, school should use the registration form to register for schools testing first.
<https://surveys.mn.gov/s/82cfes>

Who to Contact

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- **MDEs COVID testing team** is available to answer questions specific to ordering, testing event procedures, and collection reports via email: COVIDTesting.MDE@state.mn.us
- **MDHs sports team** is available to answer questions specific to testing and masking for sports: Health.sports.covid19@state.mn.us
- **Vault questions:**
 - Registered nurse will be available in a zoom room Monday—Friday 6:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. for questions about self-administering the test:
 - Zoom link: <https://vaulthealth.zoom.us/j/5330756419>
 - Hotline number for questions about the website and technology Monday—Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. (929) 205-6741
 - Results questions: mn@vaulthealth.com or 800-800-5698

Q & A