



## **SCHOOL-BASED COVID-19 TESTING: EXPECTATIONS AND GUIDELINES**

**The COVID-19 pandemic has affected communities worldwide.** COVID-19 has a variety of symptoms ranging from mild to severe, including fever/chills, cough, fatigue, shortness of breath, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, headache, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. For more about COVID-19 and prevention, visit <https://coronavirus.delaware.gov>. Alternatively, you can call 2-1-1 or text your ZIP code to 898-211, which provides accessible information for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. For more information about COVID-19 testing visit [de.gov/coronavirus.delaware.gov/testing](https://de.gov/coronavirus.delaware.gov/testing).

**Testing is essential to preventing the spread of COVID-19 in our community.** Your School District is partnering with the Division of Public Health (DPH) to offer free COVID-19 testing for staff and students. DPH has partnered with Quidel, a diagnostic healthcare company, to administer the tests. The test takes a few minutes to perform and can be completed in a few simple steps. The key stages of the testing process for students are outlined below. If you have any questions about testing, contact your child's school nurse or email [DPHCall@delaware.gov](mailto:DPHCall@delaware.gov).

### **Consent and Intake**

To consistently monitor your test results, DPH and your child's school will collect some basic identifying information from you. **Complete the attached consent form.** You may also request a consent form by calling your school nurse.

### **Testing**

The test your child will receive is an antigen test, also referred to as a rapid test. Antigen tests work by detecting protein fragments specific to COVID-19. Turnaround time for results is very quick; in some cases, results can be reported within 15 minutes.

Collecting a test specimen involves inserting a small swab into the front of the nose. Students will complete the test themselves with supervision and assistance from testing staff.

### **Results and Reporting**

Your child's test results will be reported to you, your child's school, and the appropriate local, state, and federal agencies. There are two possible test results:

**Positive.** The COVID-19 virus was detected. Students who test positive from COVID-19 will not be permitted to return to class or ride the bus home. A parent/guardian must pick up the student.

The student testing positive will also need to receive an additional polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test within 48 hours to confirm the result. The school may assist the student with obtaining a PCR test. Otherwise, you can contact your child's primary care provider about getting a PCR test, or visit [de.gov/gettested](https://de.gov/gettested) to locate a test site near you. The additional PCR test will confirm whether your child has COVID-19 when results are received—typically within three days. Please contact your child's doctor immediately with positive tests results to discuss what you should do next and then inform the school. If your child doesn't have a primary care provider, visit [de.gov/getmyvaccine](https://de.gov/getmyvaccine) for a list of public health clinics near you. Students testing positive should remain home for at least 10 days since their positive test, and at least 24 hours after fevers have resolved without the use of fever-lowering medications.

**Negative.** The COVID-19 virus was not detected. Antigen tests sometimes return incorrect negative results in people who have COVID-19. If your child has symptoms or you have concerns about exposure to COVID-19, call your child's doctor.

Parents/guardians will be contacted each time your child is tested via a notification sent home with your student. You will only receive a phone call on the day of testing if your child tests positive. If you have any questions about your test results, even if the result was negative and you do not suspect exposure, please contact your child's school nurse or doctor.