

# Test at Home: Vermont School COVID-19 Testing Protocol

## Winter 2022

### Scenario 1: Rapid Testing for Presumptive Contacts

This scenario applies to both school-based and community-based contacts. This scenario applies to both staff and students. PreK students attending programs that are attached to K-12 school buildings are eligible to participate in this program.

#### Process

1. School learns of a positive case in a student or staff member.
2. School notifies students/families that there is a case in their class. Classmates are considered “presumptive contacts.”
3. Students and staff who are presumptive contacts should pick up take home antigen test kits.
  - For example, in high school and middle schools, students in impacted classrooms could be sent to the office for test kit pick up.
  - In elementary schools, test kits could be delivered to classrooms for backpack drop.
  - Schools should not monitor compliance of kit pick up or use of kits.
4. Presumptive contacts receive a different number of kits depending on their vaccination status.
  - If individuals are fully vaccinated (and have received a booster for adults), they should receive 2 tests and use them on the fourth and fifth days after learning of their presumptive exposure.
  - If individuals are not fully vaccinated, they should receive 5 tests and use them for the next 5 consecutive days after receiving them.

For individuals with continuous household exposure:

- If individuals are fully vaccinated (and have received a booster for adults), it is recommended that they test every 3 to 5 days while their household contact is in isolation and for 5 consecutive days after the household contact ends isolation.
- If individuals are not fully vaccinated, it is recommended that they test daily while their household contact is in isolation, and for 5 consecutive days after the household contact ends isolation.

Individuals with presumptive school contact do not need to otherwise quarantine during their testing periods. Individuals who are close contacts to a case outside of school are recommended to quarantine according to Vermont Department of Health [guidance](#), but may attend school according to the above protocol.

## **Kit Distribution and FERPA**

School district personnel with a need to know may access any FERPA protected information without any need to get consent or provide disclosure. If student vaccination status is used to create resources for the sole purpose of assisting with test kit distribution, those resources become part of the student's educational record, pursuant to FERPA. For more information, please refer to [U.S. HHS and U.S. ED. Joint Guidance on the Application of FERPA and HIPAA to Student Health Records](#).

## **Scenario 2: Diagnostic Testing**

School nurses will have access to rapid testing (antigen and/or LAMP) for the following purposes:

- School-based testing for students or staff with symptoms at school.
- School-based testing for families who need school assistance in administering tests under Scenario 1, above.

If antigen tests are used, school nurses will conduct one test in school and send a second test home with the family to be completed approximately 24 hours after the first test.

Schools will require consent from families to do in-school testing.

If a student does not attend school due to illness, their parent/guardian may access 2 rapid antigen tests by picking them up at school. These tests should be taken as close to 24 hours apart as possible. Staff may do the same.

Symptomatic students and staff who have two negative tests, have symptom improvement and are fever free for 24 hours may return to school.