

Oregon COVID-19 Youth Testing Programs

This Fall, your student's school may be participating in the follow optional programs COVID-19 testing programs.

All voluntary testing programs will continue to be provided at no cost to students or schools. ODE and OHA strongly encourages all schools to participate in these programs through the 2022-2023 school year. The goal of these programs is to help maximize in-person learning days for all students and offer critical access to testing to reduce spread of COVID-19 in our schools.

Please contact your student's school regarding school's participation status in these programs and to provide consent for student participation.

Student Diagnostic Testing

Diagnostic testing is for individuals with symptoms of COVID-19 or those who have been exposed to COVID-19 through close contact with a case. OHA and ODE recommend that all K-12 schools in Oregon offering in-person instruction offer free, on-site COVID-19 diagnostic testing through the COVID-19 Testing in Oregon's K-12 Schools Program. Testing will help to quickly identify COVID-19 cases in K-12 schools and slow spread through classrooms and households.

For some students, COVID-19 testing in K-12 schools may represent their only access to a diagnostic COVID-19 test and the importance of this access cannot be overstated. Because both students and staff spend many hours at school on a typical day, it is possible that they may develop new symptoms such as fever or cough while at school. In addition, when a student or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19, their cohorts (e.g., classroom, reading group, chess club) may be considered exposed and testing may be recommended by the local public health authority.

Student Weekly Screening Testing

Screening testing is testing for individuals without symptoms of COVID-19 or exposure to COVID-19. The Oregon Health Authority (OHA), in collaboration with the Oregon Department of Education (ODE), will continue to offer free screening testing for COVID-19 to all Oregon K-12 schools during the 2021-2022 academic year. Participating schools will have the option to offer students weekly screening for classroom cohorts (e.g., a second-grade classroom), extracurricular cohorts (e.g., a chess club or football team), or both. All interested K-12 schools and students are welcome to enroll, regardless of vaccination status. The program will be administered by regional laboratory partners and details will vary by region.

Document accessibility: For individuals with disabilities or individuals who speak a language other than English, OHA can provide information in alternate formats such as translations, large print, or braille. Contact the COVID-19 Communications Unit at 1-971-673-2411, 711 TTY or COVID19.LanguageAccess@dhsoha.state.or.us