

Dear Parent/Guardian:

This letter is to inform you about recent changes in recommendations for rapid antigen COVID-19 test use. This update includes at-home/over-the-counter (OTC) COVID-19 tests. These recommendations regarding serial testing are based on a recent study and were established to increase the chances of accurate results. Although the federal Public Health Emergency is due to expire on May 11, 2023, the use of at-home/over-the-counter tests will remain a critical tool in mitigating the spread of COVID-19 in school communities and beyond.

What has changed? On November 1, 2022, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) revised the emergency use authorization COVID-19 antigen tests. Serial (repeat) testing is recommended for at-home/OTC COVID-19 rapid antigen test use for those who have COVID-19 symptoms (symptomatic) and those who have known or suspected exposure to COVID-19 but do not have symptoms (asymptomatic). Available data show that serial (repeat) testing after a negative test increases the chance of an accurate result for those with and without symptoms.

How does this affect our school community? When using at-home/OTC COVID-19 tests, the FDA recommends serial (repeat) testing when a first or second test result is negative for those with symptoms (symptomatic) or without symptoms (asymptomatic). Negative test results do not always rule out COVID-19 infection. **This may affect how often families take tests and how they interpret results.** The table below may be used as a guide to determine how often testing should be repeated and how to understand test results.

Thank you for your continued support to keep our schools safe.

| At-Home/Over-the-Counter (OTC) COVID-19 Testing Recommendations | | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Symptomatic Individuals <i>(COVID-19 symptoms present)</i> | First Result* Day 1 | Second Result Day 3 | Third Result Day 5 | Final Result/Interpretation |
| | Positive | N/A | N/A | Positive for COVID-19 |
| | Negative | Positive | N/A | Positive for COVID-19 |
| | Negative | Negative | N/A | Negative for COVID-19 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *The first test should be taken immediately if you have symptoms of COVID-19. The second test should be taken if the first test is negative, with at least 48 hours between the first and second test. | | | |
| Asymptomatic Individuals <i>(Exposed to COVID-19 but no COVID-19 symptoms present)</i> | First Result* Day 1 | Second Result Day 3 | Third Result Day 5 | Final Result/Interpretation |
| | Positive | N/A | N/A | Positive for COVID-19 |
| | Negative | Positive | N/A | Positive for COVID-19 |
| | Negative | Negative | Positive | Positive for COVID-19 |
| | Negative | Negative | Negative | Negative for COVID-19 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *The first test should be taken 5 days after a known exposure (day 0 = last known exposure). The second test should be taken if the first test is negative, with at least 48 hours between the first and second test. The third test should be taken if second test is negative, with at least 48 hours between the second and third test. | | | | |

For more information, please visit: <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-covid-19-and-medical-devices/understanding-home-otc-covid-19-antigen-diagnostic-test-results>. The most current at home/OTC test instructions may be accessed at <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-covid-19-and-medical-devices/home-otc-covid-19-diagnostic-tests#list> or on the brand/manufacturer's website. Free community COVID-19 testing locations can be found at <https://testinglocator.cdc.gov/>.