

# Guidelines for Establishing a School Testing Program

## Communications:

- Discussing testing with the school community either live or via zoom to allow feedback and questions has been helpful to some schools.
- Emphasize that testing is another layer of protection, not a replacement for distancing, masking, hand washing and vaccinations.
- Keep the message positive by reminding folks that testing will help keep the schools safer and open.
- Keeping schools safer helps to keep Elders and communities safer.
- Make decisions about testing in your district and communicate it to the community
  - Is testing required to attend in-person classes?
  - Is testing required to participate in sports and other activities?
  - How often will you offer testing to students and staff?
  - Will certain conditions prompt more frequent testing?
    - Sporting events or large gatherings
    - Sports practices or other activity participation
    - Increase in cases in your community
  - Do you plan to use this funding to offer testing during summer programs?
  - Do you plan to use this funding to offer testing to your preschool program, family members of students and the general public?
- Reinforce the positive message when someone tests positive for Covid-19 that
  - discovering the positive test and
  - isolating the person,
  - limited spread and
  - protected the community,
  - which allowed the school to stay open
- Following HIPAA and FERPA regulations, get consent from parents (for testing minors), adult students and staff to perform a medical test and report it to public health officials.
- Consider how you will encourage hesitant members of your community to participate in testing.
- Use multiple methods to build support like social media, announcement boards, newsletters, text messaging, etc.
- Translate materials as needed.
- Involve influential people (Elders, parents, students, community leaders) to support the testing program with interviews, videos, public statements or leading by example.

## Testing:

- Consider the testing methods available and choose one that works for your situation.
- Be sure that your testing plan will be sustainable and cost-effective for 16 months.
- Consider working with partners like health organizations, pharmacies, or testing labs to contract all or part of the process.

- The following tests are available at no charge to schools from the state warehouse. All of these tests have been authorized for use by FDA. Ordering information and training resources are listed in the “Additional Resources” section below.
  - ABBOTT BINAX antigen tests
  - ABBOTT ID Now rapid molecular tests
  - CUE rapid molecular tests
- Consider what types of training your staff needs or what types of equipment you will purchase to provide testing yourself. If you choose to perform testing with school staff or volunteers:
  - Identify a testing team, such as:
    - Testing Program Manager
    - Lab Director
      - Ensures that staff is trained to perform testing
      - Supervises staff to ensure that testing follows manufacturer’s instructions
      - Ensures that all test results are reported to the State
    - Testing Coordinator
    - Testing Reporter
    - Test Observers and Swab/saliva sample collectors
    - Sample Processor (either on-site lab work or packaging samples to be sent to a lab)
  - Schedule the training and practice using the equipment.
  - Develop efficient methods of preparing test materials and labeling samples.
- Some schools conduct testing in the classrooms, and others have the students come to a central testing location, and others have students provide samples as they enter the school. Consider your space and traffic flow to make a testing procedure that works for your situation.

## Lab Analysis:

- **If analysis is onsite,**
  - You must obtain a CLIA certificate. This process is handled by DHSS/Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Labs/Pages/clia/default.aspx>
    - Application form is here: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/CMS-Forms/CMS-Forms/Downloads/CMS116.pdf>
    - The application form must be completed, and you must receive a CLIA ID number, before you can order testing supplies.
    - Quickstart Guide to CLIA certification <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/cms-clia-laboratory-quick-start-guide-remediated.pdf>
    - Direct contact for CLIA is Katherine Ross - Office: 907-334-2112  
Katherine.ross@alaska.gov
  - Decide who will process the test samples
  - Consider what type of equipment you need and what training is required
  - Obtain testing equipment and adequate supplies
  - Schedule the training and practice using the equipment
  - Decide how the test information will be communicated to the State

- **If analysis is offsite,**
  - Decide how samples will be transported to the lab.
  - Arrange for the test information to be communicated to the State
  - Arrange for appropriate communication about any positive tests
- Provide test results within 24 hours.

## Additional Resources:

Test supplies can be ordered from the State of Alaska Emergency Operations Center using this form: [https://www.ready.alaska.gov/SEOC/Documents/ICS\\_213\\_RR\\_-\\_pdf\\_fillable\\_form.pdf](https://www.ready.alaska.gov/SEOC/Documents/ICS_213_RR_-_pdf_fillable_form.pdf). Send the form to: [2020\\_COVID-19@ak-prepared.com](mailto:2020_COVID-19@ak-prepared.com) Be sure to specify that this is a school order.

**ABBOTT BINAX (antigen)** The BinaxNOW training videos, as well as information on the Navica app for results, can be found at: <https://www.globalpointofcare.abbott/en/support/product-installation-training/navica-brand/navica-binaxnow-ag-training.html>.

**Abbott ID NOW (molecular)** <https://www.globalpointofcare.abbott/en/product-details/id-now.html>

**CUE (molecular)** <https://www.fda.gov/media/138826/download>  
<https://www.cuehealth.com/what-is-cue/help-and-support#product-documentation>

**CDC Guidance for Schools: Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Prevention**  
[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html#anchor\\_1616080181070](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html#anchor_1616080181070)

**NCAA Organization: Resocialization of Collegiate Sport: Developing Standards for Practice and Competition** (This is a 40 page document, and strategies for specific sports are shown in a series of charts beginning on page 19.)  
[https://ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/ssi/COVID/SSI\\_ResocializationDevelopingStandardsSecondEdition.pdf](https://ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/ssi/COVID/SSI_ResocializationDevelopingStandardsSecondEdition.pdf)

**Open & Safe Schools: Bringing Back In-Person Learning Safely with School COVID-19 Testing Programs** (This website is still being developed but already offers some good tools.)  
<https://www.openandsafeschools.org/>

You can use the “search” function at this website <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-emergency-use-authorizations-medical-devices/in-vitro-diagnostics-euas> to find out if a test has been authorized. All tests provided by the State warehouse are authorized.