

# COVID-19 TESTING IN SCHOOLS

To assist public and private schools in operating safely, DHS has received federal funding to develop a program to support school based COVID-19 testing for teachers, staff, and students. Part of this program will provide interested schools and school districts with guidance and connections to COVID-19 testing vendors. Participation in the program is voluntary. Testing supplies, diagnostics, and specimen collection services will be provided free of cost.

This testing support is intended to complement other mitigation efforts in schools, such as universal and correct use of masks, maintaining adequate physical distance, and staying home when sick.

## THREE KEY REASONS TO TEST IN SCHOOLS



### Testing helps prevent in-school transmission.

Testing individuals who are symptomatic and/or their close contacts helps enable rapid detection of cases in the school community to reduce or prevent school outbreaks. By isolating these individuals before they have a chance to infect others, school COVID-19 testing programs reduce disruptions and enable more sustainable in-person learning.



### Testing increases confidence in schools' ability to operate safely.

Students, parents/guardians, teachers, and staff may be anxious about returning to in-person learning without knowing whether they may be exposed to infection by others in the school community. Strong testing programs with regular and transparent data sharing can help build confidence in school safety.



### Testing in schools helps ensure equitable access.

Schools can help make testing a trusted, convenient, and safe part of the community on a schedule that works for kids, teachers, staff and their families without requiring extra appointments or transportation.

## LEARN MORE

Visit [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/schools.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/schools.htm) to learn more about COVID-19 testing in schools. If you have questions about the program, email [DHSK12CovidTesting@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:DHSK12CovidTesting@dhs.wisconsin.gov)