

# Coronavirus testing program—FAQs for families



**Q: I thought kids can't catch coronavirus—why do we need to take all these precautions?**

**A:** Kids can, and do, catch coronavirus. Kids are more likely to be *asymptomatic*, or show no visible signs of sickness,<sup>1</sup> but they can still spread the virus to teachers, staff, and other students. As cases are dropping for adults due to vaccinations, children now account for over 20% of total U.S. coronavirus cases.<sup>2</sup>

Additionally, schools can have spikes and outbreaks of coronavirus, and regular and consistent screening is an effective way to mitigate the risk of that happening at your child's school.

**Q: Why do we need to test everyone? Shouldn't we just test those who have symptoms?**

**A:** Bringing kids back into schools and maintaining a healthy classroom is our top priority, which is why we recommend testing everyone. Many kids who are infected are *asymptomatic*, meaning that they don't show signs of sickness when infected with coronavirus. Because of this, kids who appear healthy can still spread the virus to their teachers and peers.

In addition, at the time of any given test, students, teachers, or staff may be *presymptomatic*, meaning that they've recently been infected and have not yet developed symptoms—but still could be contagious. The best way to avoid undetected infections and stop the spread of the virus early is to test everyone, and to do so on a frequent basis.

**Q: If my child is vaccinated, do they still need to be tested?**

**A:** It depends on the requirements of your district, but we recommend all children be tested regardless of whether they've been vaccinated or not. With coronavirus variants continuing to emerge and vaccines not being 100% effective, this creates an opportunity for outbreaks to occur and testing provides an early warning system for identifying infected individuals.

**Q: What testing options are available?**

**A:** There are a variety of testing options offered to meet the needs of your child's school district, including either lab-based pooled testing or on-site single-sample testing, such as antigen or rapid PCR tests. For detecting asymptomatic cases, PCR testing technology is considered the "gold standard" and most accurate type of test by COVID-19 testing experts.

**Q: How does the registration process work?**

**A:** You'll receive an email from your school inviting you to register your child for testing and provide consent. Our registration portal is secure and easy to use, and it's the first step to implementing our testing program at your child's school. Only registered participants can be tested.

The registration process takes less than five minutes and only needs to be completed one time per child. The questionnaire is available in both English and Spanish. It can be done on a computer, tablet, or mobile device that is connected to the internet. You will not have to create an account or remember any passwords. If you don't have access to a device, talk to your school about additional options for registration.

## Lab-based testing

### **Q: How does the process work for individual or lab-pooled testing?**

**A:** We provide schools with short nasal swabs that make it easy and more comfortable for your child to collect their own test sample. With supervision, children will be able to quickly swab their own noses and place their swab in a test tube.

Teachers and other school staff can then simply place the tubes into materials that we provide for shipping, and arrange for the materials to be picked up for transport to labs, where the samples are tested and results are relayed back to schools within 12 to 48 hours. For more information on collecting samples for individual or lab-pooled testing, go to [color.com/readychekgo-training](https://color.com/readychekgo-training).

### **Q: Why is pooled testing used? What happens when a pool's results come back positive?**

**A:** Pooling combines up to six samples in a tube for a single test, making testing more efficient and affordable. If a pool is negative, it indicates that no one in the pool has coronavirus. On the other hand, if a pool is positive, it indicates that at least one person in the pool has coronavirus. Schools can then act immediately to ensure the individuals in the positive pool return or stay home until they receive a negative result from a follow-up test.

## Non-lab-based testing

### **Q: How does the process work for on-site antigen and rapid PCR testing?**

**A:** We still provide schools with short nasal swabs for your child to collect their own test sample and should follow the same process as lab-pooled testing outlined above.

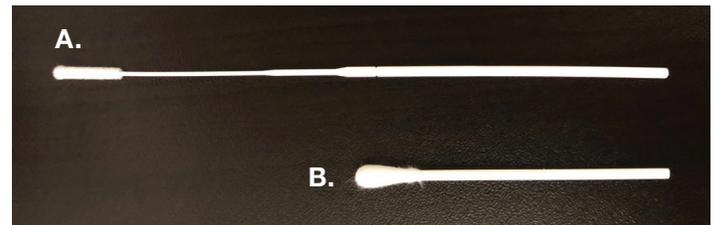
However, swabs are processed on-site by designated school staff, rather than being sent to a lab, returning results within 15 to 30 minutes. For more information on the sample collection process for on-site antigen and rapid PCR testing, go to [color.com/readychekgo-training](https://color.com/readychekgo-training).

### **Q: Why do we not use saliva for sample collection?**

**A:** Collecting enough saliva to fill the tube can take up to 10 to 12 minutes, which is not suitable for children who naturally do not produce as much saliva as adults. Also, individuals can't eat or drink 30 minutes prior to collecting a saliva sample, making it difficult to find a time that works between breakfast, snack and lunch breaks.

### **Q: I've heard that nasal swabbing is uncomfortable and scary—is that true?**

**A:** No, our nasal swabs are short and easy to use. They're about the size of your everyday cotton swabs, and they don't need to be inserted deep into the nose. We selected a short and more comfortable swab for our testing program. The swabbing process is so simple that kids can do it themselves. Our program is no more scary than kids picking their noses.



**A.** Longer swabs that some other testing companies use. **B.** Shorter, more comfortable swabs used in our testing process.

### **Q: Will my child's results be shared with other students?**

**A:** No; your child's privacy is important to us, and we've made sure that we keep all information secure and protected. No other students will have access to your child's results.

## References

1. [Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in K-12 Schools and Early Care and Education Programs | CDC](#)
2. [Children Now Account For 22% Of New U.S. COVID Cases. Why Is That? Coronavirus Updates. NPR, posted May 3, 2021](#)

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