Project ACE-IT: FAQ for Staff & Parents
Updated: October 19, 2021

Project ACE-IT

School districts, schools, and health organizations across southeastern Pennsylvania are committed to keeping staff and students healthy and safe throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. That's the basis for Project ACE-IT (Assisting Childhood Education through Increased Testing), a collaborative regional effort offering in-school, rapid COVID-19 testing for students and staff who become sick during the school day and weekly testing for staff and high-risk students, voluntarily and free of charge. This document offers information on the tests and testing program. If you have additional questions please contact leadership for your district or visit the Project ACE-IT website.

What COVID-19 tests are being used in this program and why?

What COVID-19 tests are being used in this program and why? This program uses BinaxNOW tests, which provide results in 15 minutes and are administered using a nasal swab in the front portion of the nostril. BinaxNOW tests are an antigen test, that detect a specific protein on the COVID-19 virus. If a person receives an unexpected result, meaning they are symptomatic but receive a negative result, or they are asymptomatic and receive a positive result, they may be referred for a PCR test. For more information on testing sites in Chester County click here..

Who will be tested?

Project ACE-IT's current allotment of tests allows for symptomatic testing of students and staff, and weekly asymptomatic assurance testing of staff and a limited group of students who are participating in in-person education between January and April 2021. Each school district will determine who they will be testing.

When will testing occur?

The testing schedule will be developed by school district leadership to ensure a model that works for the district needs. Contact your school district's leadership team for more information.

Who is administering the test?

The school district will identify what staff will be administering the BinaxNOW test. All staff identified to administer the test will go through a training provided by CHOP.

If I (or my student) feels sick, can I (they) come to school to get tested?

No. Staff and/or students are not allowed to enter a school building if they have been exposed to COVID-19 or have symptoms consistent with COVID-19. This safety protocol is critical to the safety of the school community. In-school testing will only be available to staff and students who come to school feeling healthy, but begin to feel symptomatic throughout the school day.

How will I learn about my (my child's) test results?

Each school will decide how best to communicate with parents/guardians about their student if they become symptomatic and are testing during a school day. Staff and families of students tested will receive results via test or email shortly after they are known.

How will test results be used?

All test results will be shared with the health department as required for public health reporting and contact tracing. All information will be protected and transferred via a secure server.