

# COVID-19 Testing In Schools

August 12, 2021



Chester County Health Department

*Protecting you and your environment*



# Table of Contents

- [Introduction](#)
- [Testing Options](#)
- [Project ACE-IT Introduction](#)
- [Project ACE-IT Participation Requirements](#)
- [Testing Implementation Plan](#)
- [COVID-19 Testing & Vaccination Status](#)
- [Antigen and PCR Testing Guidelines](#)
- [COVID-19 Test Result Reporting](#)
- [Obtaining Test Kits](#)
- [Test Kit Expiration Dates](#)
- [Resources](#)



# Introduction

CDC's and PA DOH's guidance for COVID-19 prevention in K-12 schools emphasizes the importance of in-school learning and promote the implementation of layered prevention strategies to include in-school COVID-19 testing.

The Chester County Health Department supported in-school testing during the 2020-2021 academic year and will continue to support it through the 2021-2022 academic year with minor modifications.



Chester County Health Department

*Protecting you and your environment*



# Testing Options

In-school COVID-19 testing is offered through three avenues:

- ❖ **Local – Project ACE-IT program**
- ❖ State – PA DOH's pooled testing program
- ❖ Federal – Linkage to certified laboratory for testing.

All provide antigen and diagnostic (PCR) testing.

**This guidance relates only to the local Project ACE-IT program**



Chester County Health Department

*Protecting you and your environment*



# Project ACE-IT Introduction

Project ACE-IT (Assisting Childhood Education through Increased Testing) a collaborative regional effort offering routine in-school that provides school administrators with more timely information to make decisions and reduces the risk of spreading of COVID-19 within schools.

## *Collaboration Partners:*

- ❖ The PolicyLab at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
- ❖ Chester County Intermediate Unit and School Districts
- ❖ Chester County Health Department



Chester County Health Department

*Protecting you and your environment*



# Project ACE-IT Participation Requirements

To participate in Project: ACE IT, a school district must:

- Have a signed MOA with the Health Department
- Submit testing implementation plan
- Complete required testing trainings
- Report all COVID-19 cases to the Health Department
- At minimum, implement assurance/screening and symptomatic testing
  - School districts may expand testing to other high-risk groups (classrooms, sports, extracurricular activities) after implementing assurance/screening and symptomatic testing



# Testing Implementation Plan

Testing implementation plans should include approaches for the following types of testing:

Type	Purpose
Assurance/Screening Testing ( <i>required</i> )	Regular and routine testing to assess presence of COVID-19
Symptomatic Testing ( <i>required</i> )	Testing individuals who display COVID-19 symptoms
Quarantine Testing	Testing individuals who are quarantined for consideration of a shorter quarantine period



# Testing Implementation Plan

Testing implementation plans should include approaches for scaling testing based upon the County's level of COVID-19 transmission.

- ❖ Schools are encouraged to use CDC's testing guidance for K-12 schools by level of community transmission:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>.



# Testing Implementation Plan

If Quarantine Testing is being implemented the following requirements apply:

- Unvaccinated people may be testing to reduce the quarantine period
- Either an FDA approved antigen test or PCR test is used (Project ACE-IT antigen and rapid PCR tests are FDA approved)
- Testing must occur 5-7 days after exposure
- If testing is conducted at school, it must be done using a model that does not allow a quarantined individual to be around others in the school setting



# COVID-19 Testing & Vaccination Status

- Fully vaccinated people with no COVID-19-like symptoms and no known exposure are recommended to be exempt from routine assurance/screening testing.
- Fully vaccinated individuals who have had close contact with someone who has COVID-19 should get tested 3-5 days after exposure, even if asymptomatic.

An individual is considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after the receipt of the second dose (in a 2-dose series) or after one dose (in a single dose vaccine).



# Antigen and PCR Testing Guidelines

School districts have access to antigen and rapid PCR test supplies through Project ACE-IT after participation requirements are met.

- ❖ BinaxNOW Antigen tests should be used for all types of testing.
- ❖ Cue rapid PCR tests should be used to confirm an antigen test.

**Follow detailed antigen and guidelines on next slide**



# Antigen and PCR Testing Guidelines

Refer to current School Response Actions Guidance:

<https://www.chesco.org/DocumentCenter/View/63864/COVID-19-School-Response-Actions>



Chester County Health Department

*Protecting you and your environment*



# COVID-19 Test Result Reporting

**ALL** test results (negative and positive) obtained by the schools are required to be reported to PA Department of Health via the STRAC application

- ❖ Project ACE-IT provides reporting training <https://policylab.chop.edu/project/assisting-childhood-education-through-increased-testing-project-ace-it>
- ❖ Any questions or training opportunities regarding technology and testing should be facilitated with CHOP; [EISENM@chop.edu](mailto:EISENM@chop.edu)



# COVID-19 Test Result Reporting

**ALL POSITIVE** test results obtained by schools must be reported to the Health Department via our disease report form <https://www.chesco.org/1179/Disease-Report-Forms> (this report collects more information than what is submitted through the STRAC application)

- ❖ The Test section must to be completed since the school is the “performing laboratory” administering the test
- ❖ For questions: 610-344-6225, option 1, option 1, or [disschools@chesco.org](mailto:disschools@chesco.org)



# Obtaining Test Kits

Test kits are coordinated by the Health Department (CCHD) and CCIU.

- ❖ Test kit pick-up information will be emailed by CCHD prior to the start of school
- ❖ Schools will receive the same initial quantity as last year
- ❖ Schools new to Project ACE-IT must email their number of staff to Lauren McNasby at CCHD
- ❖ Requests for additional kits must be emailed to Lauren McNasby at CCHD
- ❖ Please allow up to a week to receive a time to pick up additional test kits

**Lauren McNasby** [lmcnasby@chesco.org](mailto:lmcnasby@chesco.org)



# Test Kit Expiration Dates

BinaxNOW antigen test kits received a 12 month expiration date extension

<https://policylab.chop.edu/sites/default/files/BinaxNOW-Test-Kit-Expiry-Extension-12-Months.pdf>

Cue test kits received a 5-9 month expiration date extension

<https://www.cuehealth.com/documentation/Customer Notice of Shelf-Life Extension.pdf>



Chester County Health Department

*Protecting you and your environment*



# Resources

- CHOP's Project: ACE-IT FAQs
  - <https://policylab.chop.edu/sites/default/files/Project-ACE-IT-FAQs-for-Community-Effective-1-26-21.pdf>
- CCHD Website
  - <https://www.chesco.org/4397/Coronavirus--Resources-for-Schools>
- CHOP Training Registration
  - <https://forms.gle/WQF3MCpDkEMhubVR7>.

