COVID-19 Testing in Oregon’s K-12 Schools: Staff Screening FAQs
(Updated 10-25-2021)

Q: What is the Staff Screening Program?
   The Staff Screening Program offers free weekly COVID-19 testing by mail to any unvaccinated public or private K-12 staff.

Q: Who is eligible?
   Any public or private K-12 staff, including volunteers, are eligible. Individual staff members must sign up for this program.

Q: How do I sign up?
   Individual staff members will need to fill out the form. Click here. This information will be sent to the partner lab for this program. OHA’s laboratory partner, Willamette Valley Toxicology will send an onboarding email for their laboratory. This email can take a few days to show up. Once you are fully onboarded it does take about a week for screening testing kits to arrive.

Q: How does a school district sign up all staff that are unvaccinated?
   If a school district is wanting their unvaccinated staff to participate, they will need to share this information with their unvaccinated staff.

Q: My school district wants to know the results of my screening test?
   Educational Partners will need to consult with their legal consult and work with school staff on receiving results.

Q: Is it voluntary?
   Yes. The program is voluntary.

Q: Is there a saliva specimen option for this program?
   This program strictly provides nasal swab collection only.

Q: How much will it cost?
   The program is free.
Q: What can I expect during the test?
When your test kit arrives, it will include instructions to collect a sample on a gentle nose swab.

Q: How often will I receive an at-home test?
Participating individuals will receive a test in the mail once a week.

Q: How will I receive my results?
Your results will be displayed in your LabDash account. When your results are ready, you will receive an email or text message reminder to log-in and view them.

Q: How long will it take to get my test results?
You will receive your results within 3-5 days.

Q: Will anyone else see my results or personal health information?
Your results and personal health information are confidential and will not be shared with anyone.

Q: If I have been vaccinated, should I participate in this program?
Testing is not recommended for vaccinated K-12 staff because the risk of COVID-19 in vaccinated individuals is very low.

Q: What if I change my mind and don’t want to participate in this program?
You can opt-out of the program at any time.

Q: Who should I contact for additional questions?
You can reach out to COVIDScreening.Schools@dhsoha.state.or.us and someone from the Oregon Health Authority will answer your questions.

Q: What should I do if I test positive?
You will receive a call from a case investigator at your local public health authority who will talk with you about how to prevent the spread of the virus, including staying home or at a location provided by public health until the danger has passed; provide health information on how to care for yourself; and share resources available in your community that can support you while you self-isolate.

Q: What should I do if I test negative?
If you test negative, you must still take precautions to keep yourself and others safe. Maintaining physical distancing and wearing a mask are critical.

Q: What should I do if I’ve been exposed to COVID-19 but am in between receiving my weekly test?
You should contact your health care provider for guidance if you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.
Q: The email I got from the laboratory wants my health insurance information?

This is a standard question for the patient portal (LabDash) that they use. Please click the box above that indicates you have no insurance and the box that indicates you do not have a government issued ID. You will not be billed for this program.

Q: Can I do weekly testing instead of getting the vaccine for COVID-19?

School staff will need to work with their school district to see if this is an appropriate option for them. For more information regarding the vaccine rule, please click here.

Q: My school district wants to make this mandatory.

Educational partners will need to consult with their legal counsel.

Q: How long does it take to start receiving kits?

Once a staff member is fully onboarded, it will take about a week to get a month supplies worth of screening testing kits.

Q: How do I contact Willamette Valley Toxicology?

WVT customer service line is (541) 368-3050

Q: I have not received any email from LabDash or my testing kits?

Please contact Willamette Valley Toxicology directly at (541) 368-3050

Q: If I have recently tested for COVID-19, can I still participate in the program?

If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you will not participate in the screening program for 90 days and will need to communicate with Willamette Valley Toxicology on stopping and starting of kits.

Document accessibility: For individuals with disabilities or individuals who speak a language other than English, OHA can provide information in alternate formats such as translations, large print, or braille. Contact the COVID-19 Communications Unit at 1-971-673-2411, 711 TTY or COVID19.LanguageAccess@dhs.oda.state.or.us.