

COVID-19 Testing in Oregon's Residential Youth Facilities

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Introduction

To further mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission in Oregon’s residential youth facilities, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) in partnership with the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) will support COVID-19 testing for youth/staff upon entry to inform cohorting, who display symptoms of COVID-19 or who have been exposed to COVID-19.

It is strongly recommended that all residential youth facilities in Oregon offer free, on-site COVID-19 testing through this program. For some individuals, this program may represent their only access to timely COVID-19 testing and the importance of this access cannot be overstated.

Registration

How to register

All testing through this program will be performed under the umbrella of a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) certificate of waiver and a standing physician order held by OHA.

To test for COVID-19 under this waiver, facilities must register by completing the online registration and attestation [form](#) (Appendix A). OHA will send a confirmation of registration via email.

Residential youth facilities may begin COVID-19 testing using the Abbott BinaxNOW once tests are received, personal protective equipment (PPE) is available, staff or volunteer training is completed, and other testing plan elements are in place per this guidance. All COVID-19 testing performed under this CLIA waiver must be performed in accordance with the procedures outlined in this guidance. Nothing in this guidance is intended to change the manufacturer's instructions or the provisions of the Emergency Use Authorization under which Abbott BinaxNOW may be used.

Facilities must notify OHA via email to schooltesting.covid@dhsosha.state.or.us regarding any changes made to the information provided on the initial registration form, including changes in testing staff.

Identification of a testing administrator

The testing administrator is a person(s) assigned to perform and log all on-site COVID-19 testing. If a facility has a nurse or trained medical professional on staff, that person could perform the testing administration, however, **the testing administrator does not need to be a medical professional**. The testing administrator(s) must complete all required online training modules for the BinaxNOW point-of-care antigen test and carefully review all training regarding personal protective equipment (PPE) use included in this guidance. Facilities should designate at least one back-up testing administrator in the event of absence of the primary testing administrator and to support exposure testing. Testing administrators will be overseeing specimen collection from a distance of greater than 6 feet. If testing administrators follow the instructions in this guidance, they would not be considered a close contact of an individual who tests positive and they would not be required to quarantine.

Identification of a testing reporter

The testing reporter is the person designated to perform all COVID-19-related reporting requirements. The testing reporter should be a member of the facility administration or staff. A facility may identify more than one testing reporter.

How to re-order tests

When a facility's supply is low, the test administrator should submit a new order for their facility [here](#) (Appendix C). An email confirming receipt of the order will be sent and the **BinaxNOW tests will arrive within 7-10 business days**.

Liability

Facilities should contact their own legal counsel, but residential youth facilities, are likely to be entitled to immunity for claims of loss resulting from performing COVID-19 testing under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act, except for acts of willful misconduct. For additional information about the PREP Act, visit: <https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/1e3529.pdf>, and <https://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/legal/prepact/Pages/default.aspx>.

Privacy

Youth and staff test results, both positive and negative, shall be kept confidential. Youth test results may be shared with the youth and their legal guardian(s) only. However, youth and staff test results will be reported to public health, as required under ORS 433.004 and ORS 433.008.

Training

Abbott BinaxNOW point-of-care antigen training

The Abbot BinaxNOW test is most accurate when an individual is tested in the early stages of infection, when the amount of virus in the respiratory tract is generally highest. Under OHA's CLIA waiver, the Abbott BinaxNOW test may be used to test:

- Youth or staff upon entry or reentry to inform cohorting or alternative isolation location;
- Youth or staff with symptoms consistent with COVID-19;
- Exposed youth or staff to identify additional cases;

The Abbott BinaxNOW point-of-care antigen test produces a COVID-19 test result in 15 minutes. The test does not require a machine or device to operate and can be administered by any person who has completed all required training modules for the Abbott BinaxNOW point-of-care antigen test and carefully reviewed all training regarding personal protective equipment (PPE) use included in this guidance. The test requires a shallow nasal swab which **must** be self-administered under observation. **If a youth or staff member is not able to self-collect the specimen under observation, the testing administrator should refer the youth or staff member to their health care provider for COVID-19 testing.**

The Abbott BinaxNOW training modules are available [here](#). The following modules must be completed by the school testing administrator:

- Module 1: Getting Started
- Module 2: Quality Control
- Module 3: Specimen Collection and Handling
- Module 4: Patient (Individual) Test

Modules 5 and 6 relate to the NAVICA smartphone App and are not required training. **OHA does not recommend use of the NAVICA smartphone app.**

These modules provide a detailed step-by-step guide to the test process. All four modules must be completed in their entirety prior to performing tests on individuals. We recommend that the testing administrator watch each training module several times. It is the responsibility of the facility leadership to verify that the testing administrator has completed the necessary training requirements.

Further information about the proper use of the Abbott BinaxNOW test kits can be found on the package insert and [here](#). This includes detailed information regarding specimen collection, handling, transportation, and storage.

This [video](#) by Dr. Susan Coffin provides an excellent overview of the Abbott BinaxNOW

testing process from start to finish, and must be reviewed by all testing administrators in addition to the Abbott BinaxNOW training modules prior to performing tests.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) use

Abbott BinaxNOW specimens are collected by nasal swab. For most youth and staff, these swabs can be self-administered (i.e., the person being tested can place the swab into their own nose) under observation by the testing administrator at a distance of greater than 6 feet. **Youth and staff who are unable to self-collect the specimen under observation by the testing administrator should be referred to their health care provider for COVID-19 testing.**

Personal protective equipment (PPE) refers to equipment worn to minimize exposure and protect the wearer from infection. Because the Abbott BinaxNOW swabs can be self-administered, the PPE required for testing is minimal.

PPE components

School testing administrators should wear the following components:

1. A disposable medical-grade surgical mask (an N95 respirator is not needed)
2. Reusable eye protection (goggles or face shield)
3. Disposable gloves.

A gown is not required. The single-use medical-grade mask and gloves should be thrown away once testing is completed. The eye protection should be set aside for cleaning and disinfection. Discarded PPE does not have to be treated as biohazardous waste and can be disposed of into a regular garbage can.

We recommend that the following [handout](#) for putting on and taking off PPE be printed and posted in the area where PPE is stored and testing performed.

Residential youth facilities will be responsible for securing PPE. The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) has published a list of all the state price agreements OYA facilities can use to purchase PPE. That list is available for download [here](#).

Putting on personal protective equipment

Before collecting the specimen(s) for testing, personal protective equipment (PPE) should be put on in the following order:

1. Perform hand hygiene by washing hands with soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
2. Remove cloth face covering and put on disposable medical-grade mask.
3. Put on face shield or goggles.
4. Put on disposable gloves.

Best practice recommendations for PPE use include:

- Medical-grade mask and eye protection should cover the eyes, nose, and mouth at all times.
- Staff must perform hand hygiene before and after touching, readjusting, or taking off mask or eye protection.

Extended use of eye protection and mask

When multiple people are being tested in one time period, the same medical-grade mask and eye protection can be worn during multiple specimen collection events (e.g., in the case of group testing). This will optimize PPE supply and minimize contact with contaminated PPE. However, gloves should be changed after each test is completed. A new pair of disposable gloves should be worn for each test performed.

Taking off personal protective equipment, hand washing, and disinfecting eye protection

After all specimens have been collected and all tests have been completed, PPE should be taken off in the following order:

1. Remove gloves and discard into a trash can.
2. Clean hands by washing hands with soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
3. Remove face shield or goggles by carefully grabbing the strap and pulling upwards and away from the head without touching the front of the face shield or goggles.
4. Put on a new pair of disposable gloves.
5. Clean and disinfect eye protection, following manufacturer labeling directions. For more details, see below “Cleaning face shield or goggles.”
6. Remove gloves and discard into a trash can.
7. Clean hands by washing hands with soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
8. Put away clean eye protection in a labeled bag or container.
9. Remove medical-grade mask by carefully untying or unhooking and pulling away from the face without touching the front of the mask and discard into a trash can.
10. Clean hands by washing hands with soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
11. Put on your personal, non-medical (e.g., cloth) face covering.

Cleaning face shield or goggles

When manufacturer instructions for cleaning and disinfection are unavailable, consider the following steps according to the [CDC](#):

1. Cleaning: while wearing gloves, carefully wipe the inside, *followed by the outside* of the face shield or goggles using a clean cloth saturated with neutral detergent solution or cleaner wipe.
2. Disinfection: carefully wipe the *outside* of the face shield or goggles using a wipe or clean cloth saturated with EPA-registered hospital disinfectant solution. Leave wet for the amount of time specified on the disinfectant label.
3. Final wipe down: wipe the outside of face shield or goggles with clean water or alcohol to remove residue.
4. Drying: air dry or use clean absorbent towels until fully dry.
5. Remove gloves and clean hands using soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Storage of face shield or goggles

After cleaning, disinfecting and drying, eye protection can be stored in a clean bag or container. Eye protection and storage bag/container should be labeled with staff name to prevent sharing and should not be stored with other belongings or other PPE.

Testing

The testing administrator **must** follow the instructions provided in the Abbott BinaxNOW package insert regarding test storage, quality control, specimen collection and handling, and specimen disposal as detailed [here](#). The Abbott BinaxNOW testing instructions detailed in this section must be followed exactly to ensure an accurate result.

When to test

Abbott BinaxNOW tests should only be used to test youth ages 15+ who give consent or youth under 15 who have consent on file, or staff who agree to testing in the following three scenarios:

When a youth or staff member enters or reenters the facility

When a youth or staff member enters or reenters a facility after home visit, testing may be used to inform cohorting.

When a youth or staff member has symptoms

When a youth or staff member develops symptoms consistent with COVID-19, testing may be used to inform their care. **Primary COVID-19 symptoms include cough, fever or chills, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, or a new loss of taste or smell.** Note that muscle pain, headache, sore throat, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, new nasal congestion, and runny nose are also symptoms often associated with COVID-19 and individuals may be tested for these symptoms as well. Testing for non-primary symptoms is encouraged regardless of vaccination status as a significant proportion of children and fully vaccinated individuals with COVID-19 infection may present with non-primary symptoms.

When a youth, staff member, or cohort has been exposed to a case of COVID-19 and is symptom-free

When a youth, staff member, or cohort has been exposed to a case of COVID-19 and is symptom-free, exposure testing may be offered and is of greatest yield within 5 days of exposure.

Test storage

Test kits (test cards and reagent) must be stored at room temperature (between 59 and 86°F).

Use of expired supplies

Due to the disrupted COVID-19 testing supply chain, Oregon currently allows use of expired Abbott BinaxNOW testing supplies. Because each test kit includes a built-in quality control system, we feel confident that these expired supplies remain functional.

Quality control

The Abbott BinaxNOW tests have a built-in quality control system which must be verified each time a test is run. In addition, quality control testing using a positive and negative control swab should be performed once as training for each new testing administrator, and upon receipt of each new shipment of BinaxNOW tests.

Built-in quality control

Each time an Abbott BinaxNOW test is performed, the testing administrator must verify that the built-in quality controls are functional. There are two built-in quality controls.

1. Each card test has a blue line present at the control line position which should be visible when the test package is opened.
2. If this blue line is not present, the test card should be discarded.
3. During each test, the blue line should change its color to pink/purple.
4. If the blue quality control has not changed to pink/purple at the time the test result is read, the test card should be discarded and the result recorded as inconclusive.



Blue line should be present before test is performed.



Blue line will turn pink/purple during test.

Positive and negative control swabs

Each BinaxNOW test kit includes 40 tests plus a positive control swab. A blank sterile swab can be used as a negative control swab. Each of these control swabs (i.e., both a positive and negative swab) should be run once with each new shipment of test kits and once for each new test administrator in order to confirm that the test is working as anticipated and to demonstrate testing administrator competency. The blue control line must be present prior to performing the quality control swabs. If the blue line is not

present, discard the test and contact schooltesting.covid@dhsosha.state.or.us for OHA BinaxNOW testing support. The positive control swab should result as positive. The negative control swab should result as negative. If the positive or negative control swabs do not result as anticipated, contact schooltesting.covid@dhsosha.state.or.us for OHA BinaxNOW testing support. You may also contact the Abbott BinaxNOW Technical Support Advice Line at 1-800-257-9525 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. EST or by emailing ts.scr@abbott.com.

Specimen collection and handling

Specimens must be collected by the person being tested, under observation by the testing administrator. The person being tested should be instructed to insert the swab gently into the nostril until resistance is encountered and not more than one inch deep. The person being tested should then be instructed to rotate the swab 5 times around the outer edge of the nostril. Using the same swab, this process should be repeated in the other nostril. While many youth and staff will be able to self-collect specimens using this method, not all youth or staff will feel comfortable doing so. While individuals may be encouraged through this process, **they should never be forced or coerced**. It should be recognized that age, certain medical conditions (e.g., anxiety, ADHD) or disabilities may prevent swabs from being collected safely. If there is any doubt as to whether a specimen may be safely self-collected by an individual, the individual should be referred to their health care provider for COVID-19 testing.

Specimens should be tested as soon as possible after collection. The specimen should not be returned to its paper wrapper, but may be stored in a clean, unused plastic tube labeled with the youth or staff member's name and date of birth for up to one hour. If the specimen cannot be tested within one hour of collection, it cannot be tested and should be discarded.

Tests should be administered in a private setting, such as a designated health or isolation room. Abbott BinaxNOW test kits should not be stored in the same room as tests are performed to avoid the possibility of contamination of test materials. Surfaces of testing rooms should be regularly cleaned and disinfected, including between persons being tested.

Specimen testing

To perform the test, the following steps should be observed:

1. Open kit and lay it flat—do not use if the pouch is damaged or open
2. Verify presence of blue line at control line position
3. Hold the extraction reagent bottle $\frac{1}{2}$ inch above the top hole—do not allow the bottle to touch the test card
4. Slowly add 6 drops of reagent to the topmost hole of the swab well
5. Insert specimen swab into the bottom hole and firmly push upwards so that the swab

tip is visible in the top hole

6. Rotate the swab clockwise 3 times in the reagent liquid
7. Peel off adhesive liner and close and seal the test card

The test should be read promptly at 15 minutes. A dedicated stopwatch or timer should be available for testing. In order to ensure proper test performance, it is important to read the result promptly at 15 minutes and not before. Results should not be read after 30 minutes.

Result interpretation

Test card window	How to interpret	
One pink/purple colored line in the top half of the window, in the Control Line position	Test is negative	
Two pink/purple colored lines in both the Control & Sample Line positions ¹	Test is positive	
If no lines are seen, or if just the sample line is seen, the test is invalid. Invalid tests should be repeated on a new test card.	Test is inconclusive	<p>Invalid Result</p>

Specimen disposal

All components of the test kit may be discarded into a trash can. Additional information about the proper disposal of medical waste exposed to COVID-19 may be found here: <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/FilterDocs/COVID19MedicalWasteFS.pdf>

¹ Note that any visible second pink/purple line in the sample line position should be considered a positive test regardless of how faint the second pink/purple line appears.

Reporting requirements

Logging tests performed

Results of each test must be promptly logged in the Abbott BinaxNOW Testing Log which can be found [here](#). Testing logs must be kept in a secure location and may be audited by OHA.

Daily reporting of all positive and negative results through the OHA Reporting Portal

OHA requires all positive COVID-19 test results to be reported daily. Residential youth facilities must submit all test results through the [OHA K-12 Reporting Portal](#).

Consent forms

Facilities may choose to allow 15 – 17-year-olds to consent to receiving a test under ORS 109.640(2)(a). Staff may give verbal consent at the time of testing. All youth 14 or younger must have written consent ([see Appendix B](#)) on file prior to COVID-19 testing.

Understanding test results

How to interpret negative test results

All COVID-19 tests are imperfect and false negative results may occur. A negative COVID-19 test result should never be interpreted as definitive evidence that a youth or staff member is not infected with COVID-19, especially when symptoms compatible with COVID-19 are present. A follow-up molecular test (also known as a “COVID-19 PCR test”) is not required following a negative BinaxNOW test but may be recommended by a healthcare provider in some cases.

How to interpret positive test results

A positive COVID-19 test result means that a youth or staff member is infected with COVID-19. The individual should immediately follow local public health instructions regarding isolation.

Appendices

[Appendix A. COVID-19 Testing Registration Form](#)

[Appendix B. COVID-19 consent form](#)

[Appendix C. BinaxNOW Re-Ordering Form](#)

You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille, or a format you prefer. Contact the Coronavirus Response and Recovery Unit (CRRU) at 503-979-3377 or email CRRU@dhsosha.state.or.us. We accept all relay calls or you can dial 711.