

Inspiring Excellence



LAKE STEVENS
School District

POINT OF CARE COVID-19 TESTING STRATEGY

UPDATED 8/5/22

Lakie Stevens School District may test for COVID-19 in staff and students who show symptoms of SARS-CoV-2 to expedite the response in contact tracing or to identify any COVID-19 results.

District COVID-19 Coordinator

Lake Stevens School District Testing Strategy

OVERVIEW

This is a summary of the diagnostic testing strategy for the Lake Stevens School District during the hybrid or in-person learning for students and for staff who are showing symptoms of COVID-19, have been instructed to quarantine because they have been identified as a close contact within the last 14 days or who just want to test for knowledge of COVID-19. The test allows for a rapid test result for individuals. It contains recommendations from the Snohomish Health District (Health District) and the Washington State Department of Health (DOH).

Note: As of March 12, 2022, the Health District and DOH have removed the requirement to contact trace any close contacts to a COVID-19 exposure.

According to DOH, testing to diagnose COVID-19 is part of a comprehensive strategy and should be used in conjunction with promoting behaviors that reduce spread (e.g., mask use, social distancing, hand hygiene); maintaining healthy environments (e.g., cleaning and disinfection, ventilation); maintaining healthy operations (e.g., scheduling, virtual learning, class sizes); and preparing for when someone gets sick as well as screening all students and staff for signs and symptoms of illness.

All populations will have equitable access to testing.

Type of Test Used to identify SARS-CoV-2

The District will use the BinaxNow™ COVID-19 Ag Cards or other suitable replacements. This is a rapid test for the qualitative detection of COVID-19 antigens in nasal swab specimens. Throughout this document, "testing" refers to viral testing for potential infection. Tests used to show past SARS-CoV-2 infection (i.e., antibody tests) are not included in this document. CDC does not currently recommend using antibody testing as the sole basis for diagnosis of current infection.

Testing Strategy

DOH recognizes that there are limitations in resources at the local level and large or widespread testing strategies may be infeasible. Lake Stevens School District has even more limitations in testing resources; therefore, there will not be a widespread mass testing strategy. The District will offer diagnostic testing of symptomatic staff and students, with consent, before sending the person home. We will also offer rapid testing to staff and students that desire COVID-19 testing, with consent. DOH and Snohomish Health District offer four (4) different testing strategies. They include:

1. Surveillance testing of a sample of staff and students
2. Targeting testing ill students and staff
3. Screening of students and staff on a regular basis, or
4. Testing of contacts during an outbreak.

The District will use the targeted diagnostic testing of ill students and staff. After obtaining consent, students and staff that develop symptoms after being at school/work will receive testing immediately in the school sick room. We will also use the diagnostic testing strategy for staff or students who were exposed to COVID-19 at school.

The District Registered Nurse Supervisor, Ernette Visitacion, or trained designees will perform the testing.

When testing might be performed

To protect the health and safety of students and staff, students and staff who are sick with any illness are required to stay home and isolate. Students and staff who are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and are already at school are directed to go to their building's sick room. According to the CDC, [symptoms](#) may include:

- fever or chills
- cough
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- muscle or body aches
- headache
- new loss of taste or smell
- sore throat
- fatigue
- congestion or runny nose
- nausea or vomiting or diarrhea

The school nurse will assess symptoms and encourage the staff or student to be tested using the BinaxNow™ Ag Card (or other rapid antigen test kits). The Nurse Supervisor or trained designees will perform the COVID-19 antigen test.

Hierarchy of testing for SARS-CoV-2 Testing

Hierarchy for selection of persons for testing in schools can be as follows:

1. Persons with symptoms of COVID-19.
2. Persons who have had contact with someone with COVID-19 (see Table 1 for defining and identifying contacts). **As of 3/12/22, contact tracing is not required.**
3. All students, faculty, and staff with possible exposure in the context of outbreak settings (as described in [Table 1 below](#)).
4. All staff and students who want to be tested.

Table 1: Tiered approach and criteria for determination of contacts for testing.

<p>Tier 1 <u>Close contacts</u> Highest risk of transmission*</p>	<p>Students, teachers, and staff who were within 6 feet apart from the individual with COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more beginning 2 days before the individual with COVID-19 became symptomatic (or, for asymptomatic individuals, 2 days prior to specimen collection) until the time of isolation.** Schools should consider the following example settings in determining <u>close contacts</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classrooms • Lunchrooms • Athletic teams and other extracurricular activities • After-school care and other events
<p>Tier 2 <u>Potential contacts</u> Next highest risk of transmission</p>	<p>Students, teachers, and staff in the same classroom/cohort/pod as the person with COVID-19 who always kept 6 feet distance between persons. For example, this includes individuals in the following scenarios:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students, teachers, or staff in the same hallway, but not sharing a classroom or bathroom. • Students who took the same bus but were farther than 6 feet apart from other riders at the same time as a person with COVID-19.
<p>Tier 3 <u>Potentially exposed individuals</u> Lowest risk of transmission</p>	<p>Students, teachers, and staff who shared a common space (e.g., teacher’s lounge, library) and were <u>not using the space at the same time</u> as the person with COVID-19, but where short duration exposure to those with confirmed COVID-19 cannot be definitively ruled out. For example, this includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students, teachers, and staff who are in-person at the school on a different schedule and in different rooms than the individual with confirmed COVID-19, but exposure cannot be definitively ruled out.

When testing is not recommended

Testing will be offered on a voluntary basis. It is unethical and illegal to test someone who does not want to be tested, including students whose parents or guardians do not want them to be tested. It is not recommended to retest individuals with a PCR test who have previously tested positive and do not currently have symptoms for COVID19; this recommendation continues for up to 3 months from their last positive test. Data currently suggest that some individuals test persistently positive due to residual virus material but are highly unlikely to be infectious. Parents or guardians of students claiming a recent prior positive test may be asked to pursue documentation from their health care provider to indicate the date, type, and result of the student's most recent COVID-19 test. The same may be asked of staff claiming a recent prior positive test.

Testing Procedures

Using the BinaxNow™ Ag card (or suitable replacement) test will be for staff and students who are presenting symptoms of COVID-19 while at school or on a district worksite or have been exposed to a COVID-19 positive person at school or district worksite. A quick positive test allows the District to perform more rapid medical interventions and may influence a person's behavior to immediately follow prevailing isolation guidelines.

Though the mask mandate was lifted on March 12, 2022, masks will still be required while testing for COVID-19.

Supplies possibly needed before testing:

- PPE – N95 mask, gloves, gown, eye protection (goggles or face shield) and a physical barrier (e.g. plexiglass). Change into new gloves for each test.
- Face covering for the testers and the people being tested – required.
- Cleaning and disinfecting supplies;
 - biohazard waste (red) trash bags and boxes (optional);
 - regular trash bags and cans;
 - hand sanitizer;
 - supplies for cleaning a spill of transport media or biological specimens.
- Non-contact thermometer & oximeter
- Specimen sticker labels to label the test kit
- Pens
- Consent forms; [Staff](#) or [Student](#)
- BinaxNow™ test kits (or other rapid antigen test)
- [Educational materials](#) Staff informing students or staff (in appropriate language) on SARS-CoV-2 testing, test results and what they mean, quarantine and isolation, and how to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The following steps will be followed to implement the test:

1. Building nurse identifies the symptomatic student or staff member
 2. Building nurse isolates student or staff member in the sick room
 3. Building nurse may take student or staff members temperature and oximeter readings
 4. Building nurse may inform District Nurse of affected student or staff member
 5. Building nurse obtains testing consent from the [parent of the student](#) or [staff member](#) using consent form.
 6. Building Nurse performs rapid test on symptomatic student or staff member
 7. Results are read precisely at 10 or 15 minutes after testing (depending on the test). Students or staff members must be held in isolation for that time to obtain results.
 8. If test is positive, Building Nurse will:
 - a. Implement the screening protocol for COVID-19 per DOH flowchart,
 - b. Instruct student or staff member to go directly home to isolate and
 - c. refer students or staff members to their PCP.
 9. If test is negative, Building Nurse will:
 - a. Implement the screening protocol for COVID-19 per DOH flowchart,
 - b. If symptomatic, instruct student or staff member to go directly home and return to school when symptoms significantly improve.
 - c. Advise staff members or parents of students to monitor symptoms
 - d. Advise staff members or parents to seek an additional PCR (molecular) COVID-19 test. The turnaround time for results is approximately 24-72 hours.
- Note: A negative result does not rule out SARS-CoV-2 infection and should not be used as the sole basis for treatment or patient management decisions.*
10. Building Nurse reports positive testing results to DOH (WAC 246-101) within 24 hours using the SimpleReport application.
 11. Safely dispose of the card or solution in a biohazardous or regular waste container.
 12. Repeat the test if the test's internal control does not meet the expected result.

Note: Trained designee can be replaced for the building nurse in the testing procedures.

COVID-19 Self-Testing Guidance

Self-tests are increasingly available and can make testing more accessible. Sometimes a self-test is also called a "home test," an "at-home test," or an "over-the-counter test." These self-tests are usually available without a prescription in a pharmacy or retail store, and many are now covered by public or private insurance.

The District will only use positive results from a self-test to determine appropriate action to take for a student or staff member. Tests that present negative results must have to be observed by a health care official for the District to accept.

What is next after the test?

To prevent the spread of COVID-19 in your home and community and to determine when you can return to on site activities, please follow the guidance from the school or district nurse.

The '[What to do if You Test Positive](#)' chart from DOH will instruct the student or staff member what to do while at home based on whether COVID-19 symptoms exist.

The Screening Protocol for COVID-19 will assist in determining when the student or staff member can return to their building.

After the test is complete:

- Correctly doff and dispose of PPE
- Clean and disinfect all table, chairs, pens, thermometers & oximeters
- Dispose of biohazard waste
- Communicate results and return to school or work requirements to participants.

References:

[COVID-19 Info for Schools and Child Care](#) – Snohomish Health District

[District COVID-19 Safety Plan](#) – Lake Stevens School District, August 5, 2022

[Interim SARS-CoV-2 Self-Testing Guidance for K-12 Schools](#) - April 27, 2022

[Print Resources](#) - Centers for Disease Control

[Reporting COVID-19 Test Results](#) – Washington State Department of Health

[Washington State K-12 School Testing Guidance](#) – Washington State Department of Health.