

MI Safe Schools Testing Program

To support schools that wish to incorporate SARS-COV-2 testing into their plans to resume in-person learning, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is offering a voluntary program to provide rapid antigen testing to educators, staff, and students. Testing for SARS-COV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, is not a requirement for schools to return to in-person learning. However, testing is one of many tools that, together, can be used to allow for safe in-person instruction.

What?

The MI Safe Schools testing program is a voluntary program offered by MDHHS for Michigan Pre-K–12 schools who wish to offer weekly testing to educators, staff, and students in order to reduce risk associated with in-person school operations. MDHHS will provide training, guidance, and rapid antigen testing materials to schools who sign up and agree to program requirements.

Who?

Pre-K through grade 12 teachers, administrators, students, paraprofessionals, teaching aides, and non-instructional staff who are working in-person and have daily student interactions are all eligible to opt into this program through their participating school or district.

Where?

Schools will be able to test educators, staff, and students on school grounds.

When?

Upon completion of testing training, signed consent forms, and receiving test materials, participating schools will be able to test educators, staff, and students. Schools will be able to offer testing to educators and staff once a week, and to students up to twice a week (unless test-to-stay option is in place).

Why?

COVID-19 continues to pose a serious health threat. By taking that threat seriously through rigorous testing, alongside mask-wearing, cleaning, and other protocols, schools can reduce risk for students, parents, and staff. Schools that follow existing guidance carefully and diligently are not considered major risks for outbreaks. However, testing and early detection of cases can reduce risks associated with in-person instruction.

Participation Requirements

- Engagement of key stakeholders including educators, staff, and school administrators
- One testing lead must be identified per school, and contact information supplied
- Participating schools commit to a weekly testing cadence
- Participating individuals exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms must self-isolate at home
- Participating schools must report individual positive and aggregative negative results
- Results and documents may be audited by MDHHS or local health departments