



Cincinnati Public Schools coronavirus testing program: frequently asked questions

How does the registration process work?

You'll receive an email from your school inviting you to register your child for testing and provide consent. Our registration portal is secure and easy to use, and it's the first step to implementing our testing program at your school. Only registered participants can be tested.

The registration process takes less than five minutes and only needs to be completed one time per child. The questionnaire is available in both English and Spanish. It can be done on a computer, tablet, or mobile device that is connected to the internet. You will not have to create an account or remember any passwords. If you don't have access to a device, talk to your school about additional options for registration.

How does the actual coronavirus testing process work?

We provide schools with short nasal swabs that make it easy and more comfortable for students to collect their own test sample. With supervision, children will be able to quickly swab their own noses and place their swab in a test tube.

Teachers and other school staff can then simply place the tubes into materials that we provide for shipping, and arrange for the materials to be picked up for transport to labs, where the samples are tested and results are relayed back to schools within 12–48 hours.

I've heard that nasal swabbing is uncomfortable and scary—is that true?

No, our nasal swabs are short, comfortable, and easy to use. They're about the size of your everyday cotton swabs, and they don't need to be inserted deep into the nose. We made sure to pick a short and more comfortable swab for our testing program. The swabbing process is so simple that kids can do it themselves. Our program is no more scary than kids picking their noses.

What is pooled testing? Why is it used?

We use pooled testing, which combines up to six people's samples into a tube for a single test, to make testing more efficient and affordable. If a pool comes back negative, it indicates that no one in the pool has coronavirus. On the other hand, if a pool comes back positive, it indicates that at least one person in the pool has coronavirus. Pooled testing allows for accurate results and identification of positive pools for a lower cost than individual testing. This helps your child's school keep costs down while still effectively testing everyone.

What happens when a pool's result comes back positive?

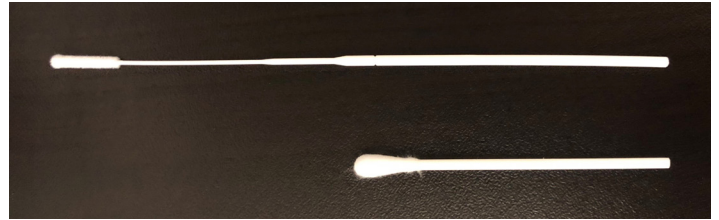
If a pool is positive, you will follow your school district's guidelines. Most often, people in the pool return home or stay at home until they receive a negative result from a follow-up test. This helps keep teachers and other students safe and allows in-classroom learning to continue with minimal disruptions.

Will my child's results be shared with other students?

No; your child's privacy is important to us, and we've made sure that we keep all information secure and protected. No other students or teachers will have access to your child's results.

References

1. **Children Now Account For 22% Of New U.S. COVID Cases. Why Is That?** Coronavirus Updates. NPR, posted May 3, 2021.



I thought that kids can't catch coronavirus—why do we need to take all these precautions?

Kids can, and do, catch coronavirus. Kids are more likely to be asymptomatic, or show no visible signs of sickness, but they can still spread the virus to teachers, staff, and other students. As cases are dropping for adults due to vaccinations, children now account for over 20% of total U.S. coronavirus cases.¹

Additionally, schools can have spikes and outbreaks of coronavirus, and regular and consistent screening is the best way to mitigate the risk of that happening at your child's school.

Why do we need to test everyone? Shouldn't we just test those who have symptoms?

Bringing kids back into schools and maintaining a healthy classroom is our top priority, which is why we recommend testing everyone. Many kids who are infected are asymptomatic, meaning that they don't show signs of sickness when infected with coronavirus. Because of this, kids who appear healthy can still spread the virus to their teachers and peers.

In addition, at the time of any given test, students, teachers, or staff may be *pre-symptomatic*—they've recently been infected and have not yet developed symptoms. The best way to avoid undetected infections and stop the spread of the virus early is to test everyone, and to do so on a frequent basis.



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