



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary

Guidance for Over the Counter Tests in Maryland Schools

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) has purchased a supply of iHealth Rapid Antigen over the counter (OTC) tests for distribution to public and non-public schools. Results are available within 15 minutes of processing. These tests are available for schools at no cost.

The state will distribute iHealth test kits to school systems/schools. Each iHealth kit includes two tests and detailed instructions for parents and/or staff to follow. School systems/schools will be responsible for distributing their kits to their respective schools, students, and staff. These OTC tests do not require a CLIA certificate.

OTC tests should have the same considerations as healthcare provider or school performed antigen tests in terms of sensitivity, specificity and recommendations for confirmatory testing.

Logistics

- Schools may order tests using this [form](#).
- Once schools submit their OTC test requests, the MDH testing team will determine allocations based on test availability.
- Ordering test kits requires a lead time **of up to two weeks** and could take longer depending on the number of requests received and available supply.
- Each iHealth case contains 90 kits and has the following dimensions: 13.1" x 11.8" x 10.8".

Considerations for Use

Schools may use their test allocation as they see fit, subject to test availability. Some examples for use are as follows:

- Distribution to students or staff persons who are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms;
- Distribution to students or staff members who are identified as a close contacts to an individual with COVID-19;
- Distribution to all students in a classroom or cohort when that classroom or cohort is experiencing multiple cases of COVID-19;
- Distribution to household close contacts of students or staff persons with COVID-19
- Distribution for COVID-19 testing prior to school events or return from holiday break;
- Distribution for weekly screening testing; or,
- Distribution for use In accordance with CDC [Test to Stay](#) guidance

Test Instructions

Persons using these tests should follow the instructions in their test kit and can also watch a video on how to use the test kit:

- [iHealth \(English, Spanish\)](#)
- Test kit instructions can also be found [here](#).

For additional information, please refer to the CDC's guidance on [Self-Testing at Home](#).

Results & Reporting

- Parents and staff are encouraged to report positive test results through the [Maryland COVID Positive At-Home Test Report Portal](#)
- Parents and staff must follow their school's COVID-19 reporting protocols
- Persons who test positive for COVID-19 with an OTC test may want to notify their healthcare provider.
- Persons who test positive should immediately [isolate](#) away from others, notify their close contacts and notify their worksite or school so that precautions can be taken
- The school system/school should determine if OTC test results will require any verification of the result (ex. attestation, direct observation of test performance)

Confirmatory Testing

Schools and school systems should determine the circumstances under which OTC tests should be used serially and/or have confirmatory NAAT testing from a health care provider or community test site. It is recommended that [CDC guidance](#) on the use of antigen testing in community settings and the [specific instructions](#) for iHealth Rapid Antigen OTC tests be followed.

If a symptomatic or asymptomatic person has a negative antigen test (particularly if that person has also had close contact with someone having COVID-19 or the [COVID-19 Community Level](#) is high), a confirmatory NAAT test should be considered. A second antigen test collected 24-48 hours after the initial negative test (i.e. serial testing), can also be performed.

A positive antigen test result generally does not require confirmatory testing; however, it could be considered when the person has a lower likelihood of infection (e.g., in an area where the [COVID-19 Community Level](#) is low and no known close contact with someone infected with SARS-CoV-2).

The iHealth test kit includes instructions for performing serial testing, including the number of days between tests.

Legal & Consent

- Each test is administered at home by the person taking the test or parent/guardian. Schools may want to consider whether the person taking the test understands how the test works and any benefits or risks, or telling the person where they can find that information.
- Schools may also want to consider whether parents and guardians are aware that the school may send a minor home with tests and consent to the minor receiving such tests, if necessary.
- Schools that choose to collect records or keep data on student testing must comply with relevant legal obligations relating to student records and data privacy, which may differ for each school.
- Schools are strongly encouraged to consult with legal counsel with any questions, being mindful of all HIPPA or FERPA requirements.

Please contact MDH.K12testing@maryland.gov with any questions or concerns.