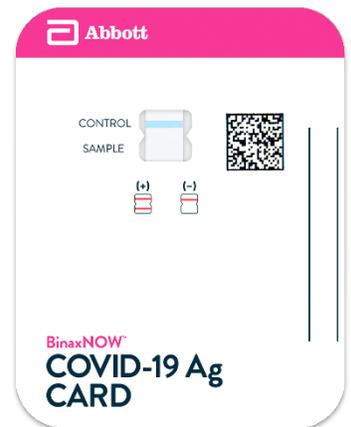


- This program helps schools conduct affordable, convenient, and efficient rapid COVID-19 tests that can be used by teachers, staff and students to promote a safer in-person learning environment.
- An estimated 30-60% of infected individuals are “silent spreaders” and are asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic. Testing asymptomatic students and staff with rapid antigen testing is a tool that schools can use to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in conjunction with other interventions such as physical distancing, face masks, hand hygiene, ventilation, smaller class sizes and staggered class times.
- The Abbott BinaxNow Rapid Antigen test is the test used in the California K-12 School antigen testing program. It is a lateral flow assay, similar to a pregnancy test, with results in 15 minutes. Since this test requires a CLIA-waiver, a laboratory director and an ordering health care provider is required.
- Antigen tests are less sensitive than molecular tests (i.e., PCR) but are likely to detect those who are most infectious. To be most effective, they need to be done more frequently than molecular tests.
- The California K-12 School Antigen Testing Program provides the following free for participating schools:
 - Abbott BinaxNow Antigen Test Cards
 - A robust training program for school personnel performing tests
 - Use of CDPH Ordering Health Care Provider and Laboratory Director
 - Use of the software platform Primary.Health
- Primary.Health is a web-based platform allowing participant/parental consent, dashboards/data analytics, automated result notification, and automated local and state reporting. It does not require downloading an app. The platform is accessible to all, with support in 15 languages and phone support for those without internet access.
- Our program recommends that students and staff self-swab (see [video of students self-swabbing](#)).
- Schools can use this program for routine asymptomatic screening or symptomatic screening. All positive antigen tests need a confirmatory molecular testing done (e.g., PCR).
- Results of the tests (both positive and negative) will be reported to the local health department via Primary.Health.
- Results of the tests (both positive and negative) will be reported to participants tested (or their legal guardians) via Primary.Health.
- We recommend schools work closely with their local public health departments when implementing a testing program.
- This program is open to all K-12 schools: public, charter, and private.



To find out if antigen testing might be the right fit for your school, please visit the

[Testing Task Force Website](#) or email us at schoolbinax@cdph.ca.gov