

Test to Stay



This document provides guidance from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to local public health authorities (LPHAs) and school districts, charter schools, and private schools on how to implement ‘test to stay.’ The goal of test to stay is to allow students and staff to participate in in-person learning as safely as possible while lessening the burden of quarantine on students and their families, teachers, and school administrators.

What is Required for Test to Stay?

Schools need to:

- [Register](#) for the OHA Diagnostic testing program.
- Identify and train school testing administrator(s) and a school testing reporter to administer and report all tests. The school testing administrator(s) do not need to be a healthcare professional but must complete all required online training modules for the BinaxNOW point-of-care antigen test and carefully review all training regarding personal protective equipment (PPE) use.
- Obtain parental [consent](#) for testing (this is complete if already registered for OHA’s diagnostic testing program).

Schools will Determine which Testing Programs to Offer Students and Staff.

The school district, charter school, or private school, in consultation with the local public health authority, may determine which testing programs, including test to stay, to offer students. All testing programs are optional and free to schools. Visit [Oregon’s COVID-19 testing in K-12 schools](#) for an overview of all testing programs.

Who Should Participate in Test to Stay?

Test to stay is for *unvaccinated* students or staff who:

- Are determined to be a close contact to a COVID-19 positive case in a school setting in which universal masking is in place (i.e., in the classroom or on the school bus).
- Are free of any COVID-19 symptoms.

Schools Must Get Parental Permission Prior to Testing.

All students must have written [consent](#) on file prior to receiving COVID-19 testing. OHA requires written consent from a parent and/or guardian for all students under the age of 15 receiving the BinaxNOW test. Schools may choose to allow 15 – 17-year-olds to consent to receiving a test under ORS 109.640(2)(a). Staff may give verbal consent at the time of testing. Staff are not required to have a consent form on file in order to be tested for COVID-19.



All Test Results Must Be Reported to the Oregon Health Authority.

OHA requires all COVID-19 test results, both positive and negative, to be reported daily. Schools must submit all test results through the OHA K-12 Reporting Portal available [here](#).



All positive cases **must** be reported immediately to the local public health authority.

Actions to be Taken Based on the Person's Test Results:

All Students and Staff

The Oregon Health Authority mandates all students and staff who test negative and continue attending in-person instruction during the modified quarantine period wear masks while at school and during K-12 extracurricular activities.

Test Positive

Students or staff who test positive must isolate at home as directed by the local public health authority. They may return to in-person learning after they complete their isolation period.

Test Negative

Students or staff may continue in-person learning if they test negative and do not have any symptoms of COVID-19.



Did Not Participate

Families who do not give consent to testing should quarantine at home as directed by their local public health authority.

Exposure to Someone Who Tests Positive.

Testing may be implemented for any unvaccinated student or staff member who is exposed to COVID-19 in a K-12 setting if supported by the local public health authority.

- Unvaccinated students or staff close contacts should be tested twice during the 7 days following exposure. The first test should occur as soon as the exposure is identified and prior to the return to school. The second test should occur between days 5-7 following the exposure.
- All close contacts should watch for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following their last exposure. If an exposed individual develops symptoms of COVID-19 within 14 days following their last exposure, they should isolate and be tested regardless of vaccination status.



Testing Resources

Testing for test to stay must occur using the Abbott BinaxNOW resources provided to schools by OHA. K-12 screening testing performed through one of Oregon's four regional laboratory partners may be used for the second test.

Questions

For more information regarding test to stay visit [Oregon's COVID-19 Testing in K-12](#) school or email SchoolTesting.COVID@dhsosha.state.or.us.