



The Louisiana Department of Health aims to support Louisiana schools by providing COVID-19 testing options at no cost to any school in the state with the shared goal to keep schools open and prevent outbreaks of COVID-19 amongst the last population to have access to vaccination (those under 12 years).

LDH is also offering all interested schools the opportunity for an on-site vaccination clinic. This clinic would be at no cost to your district, your schools or your students. LDH will cover the costs as well as the planning, parental consent and certificate of insurance so the school has zero liability. See insert for more information.

Routine testing is available to anyone on the school campus: students, teachers and staff. LDH has designed a participant incentive program that will encourage routine participation throughout the 2021- 2022 school year. LDH provides participating school districts with financial support to help schools implement the following routine testing options:

1 Option 1

DO IT YOURSELF

LDH provides \$30k in staff funding, rapid molecular testing materials and training for a school staff person to run a routine COVID-19 testing program in their school.

2 Option 2

LDH MAKES IT HAPPEN

The “LDH Makes it Happen” PCR testing service allows schools to partner with LDH vendors who will provide the end-to-end testing program for the school. LDH will fund the testing program and provide \$14.5k in staff time reimbursements associated with the logistical needs to help coordinate this program.

3 Option 3

WAIT & SEE

Schools can choose to opt-out of routine testing and call upon LDH if there is an outbreak.



TO SIGN UP YOUR SCHOOL
CLICK HERE OR VISIT ldh.la.gov/schoolsignup

We're here to help you decide!

Questions can be sent to K-12covidtesting@la.gov

ldh.la.gov/schooltesting | 1 (877) 356-1511

The purpose of this funding and LDH's statewide COVID-19 testing program is to keep COVID-19 from spreading through our school systems, infecting the unvaccinated children and teachers and shutting down extracurricular activities or an entire school. It's imperative that LDH supports students thrive by providing healthcare opportunities that are at no cost to schools, families or students.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can my staff conduct the testing ourselves?

If your school chooses Option 1, all testing materials are provided by LDH and your school staff will be trained. LDH will even reimburse staff associated costs.

Our school doesn't have anyone who can manage something like this. How can you help?

For Option 2 schools, our contracted testing teams will provide the staff and required equipment, and will meet with each school before testing begins to determine the best and safest site layout.

How customizable is this program?

Each option is designed to make testing easy and accessible to everyone. With Option 2, we plan each school site in partnership with the participating laboratory testing team located within the school's LDH region.

Which schools are eligible?

The program is free to public, private and charter schools, individually or within a school system.

Who is providing the testing for Option 2?

LDH has contracted qualified and experienced laboratories throughout the state to assist in our program.



If in-person learning for our children is to operate without interruption, regular testing for COVID-19 is a critical component. Having a testing program lowers the risk of students, their families and communities, and the teachers and staff of becoming ill from COVID-19. And, since it's not yet possible for children under the age of 12 to be vaccinated, and many other people have yet to get the shot, we need to use a variety of strategies to keep our children safe and our schools open for learning.

Goal:

To achieve the objective of testing enough students and staff to protect the school, LDH hopes to help schools achieve a voluntary screening rate of 20% of the total school population per week.

Encouraging masking, in-school social distancing when possible, vaccinations for older students and staff, and proper respiratory etiquette and handwashing protocols are all vital. However, in-school testing also serves as an essential strategy in slowing the current rapid spread of the Delta variant as much as possible.

IN-SCHOOL TESTING: WHO, HOW, AND WHEN?

The CDC recommends that any unvaccinated member of the school community, whether that is a student, teacher or member of staff:

- *Be tested at least once a week.*
- *Regular testing, and rapid results, can be a vital tool in understanding who else might have been exposed, while allowing for treatment, to limit the spread of the virus to others and prevent outbreaks.*



WHAT THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IS OFFERING?

There are three possible testing options for your school to consider:

1 **Option 1**

If your school has suitable staff and capacity, LDH can provide all of the training necessary for you to run the tests yourselves and will provide all necessary supplies at no cost. LDH will also grant each participating school \$30,000 to help defray expenses associated with the testing effort.

2 **Option 2**

is an all-in-one approach to testing in which LDH handles the full program—including testers and lab services—while also offering schools all the necessary logistical support AND providing funding of \$14,500 to cover any associated staffing costs incurred by the school.

3 **Option 3**

is for schools that are not ready to commit to a testing program but that want to be prepared—and have LDH support—if an outbreak were to occur.

There may be multiple mobile vaccination vendors available to service your school district. LDH encourages hosting a vaccine event for students during the school day, but schools also have the option to host an after-hours event, for both parents and students. All vendors and mobile events occur at no cost to the school and LDH will provide all the needed resources and supplies.



ON-SITE COVID-19 VACCINATIONS FOR SCHOOLS

With the spread of the highly contagious Delta variant, and its increased risk to young people, vaccination remains our most effective tool in keeping our students safe and learning in-person. Research shows providing vaccine at a child's school is one of the top administration locations preferred by parents and it is a great way to overcome access barriers.

NO COST

The Louisiana Department of Health can assist all interested schools and school districts to host on-site vaccination events on school campuses this fall at no cost to the district, school or students. LDH will cover the cost of the entire event but will need the physical space to administer the shots. LDH will vaccinate students regardless of insurance coverage and nobody will be charged anything for these vaccination services.

LITTLE DISRUPTION TO THE SCHOOL

LDH is offering a turnkey operation that will cause little to no disruption to schools. Pending approval, LDH staff will contact schools within your district about potential dates of the event. After a date is selected, LDH and/or the mobile vaccination vendor will handle the rest. These mobile teams, comprised of nurses from the top hospitals, medical schools and community organizations across the state, can vaccinate an entire classroom in around 10 minutes and an entire school in just a few hours.

ZERO LIABILITY

Participating school districts and schools will be held harmless from any liability for hosting an event at a school site. LDH and the mobile vaccination vendor will collect parental consent in advance of any clinic and only vaccinate children whose parents have given them permission. LDH can also provide a certificate of insurance from the vaccinating entity, as well as a Hold Harmless Agreement, clearly documenting this liability removal upon request.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you are interested in moving forward with on-site events or have any other questions, please contact the Office of Public Health Regional Medical Director in your area or complete a [Vaccine Support Request Form](#).

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