

Project COVID DeteCT - FAQs

Is the testing program free?

Yes. There will be *NO cost to schools or participating students* as the Department of Health has received federal funding to pay for the testing (insurance will not be collected).

How do I sign up my child to be part of this testing?

To enroll your child in this testing program you have to *sign an online consent form*. The signed consent will cover the testing throughout the school year.

What day will the testing take place at my school?

Your school will decide what day of the week testing will take place at your school. Typically, students will be tested the same day and time every week at your school, however, holidays and other school activities may impact this schedule.

What will a testing day look like?

Your school will create a testing schedule that is nondisruptive to the regular school day. Participating students from each class will either walk together in a chaperoned group or be called individually to walk to the designated testing location. When the testing is completed, the students will go back to the classroom.

How long will the testing take each week?

The collection of each sample is *less than 15 seconds* (5 swirls in each nostril) and conducted by a trained Medical Assistant. The entire testing process, including administrative work, is less than 2 minutes per student.

Will students swab themselves?

Samples will be collected from students by trained Medical Assistants. This is considered to be the best practice to ensure adequate samples are collected, which helps to prevent and minimize inconclusive results.

Is this an invasive nasopharyngeal swab?

No. This is a comfortable and shallow nasal swab (approximately ½ inch into each nostril). It is not the nasopharyngeal that goes six inches up the nose, commonly referred to as the brain “tickler”. We have tested thousands of children with very positive feedback.

What is the risk of a “false positive”?

The SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR test has been designed to minimize the likelihood of false-positive test results. The sensitivity of the test we use is 100% with a LOD of 0.5 copies/uL. This low LOD enables us to capture of very low viral loads and reduces the chance of a false positive.

How will the lab results be communicated?

- Every participating student will be able to create a confidential HIPAA compliant patient portal where their results will be published and stored. The parent email used on the consent form will be the email used to communicate the patient portal information.
- Positive and negative results will be posted in the students' patient portals.
- Positive results will also be communicated to the school, so that the school can contact the applicable students for quarantine instructions.

How long before I receive the lab result?

Lab results will be reported within 24 hours after collection of the sample.

What is the school responsible for?

- Communicating the Project COVID DeteCT testing program to parents, students, and staff.
- Coordinating and scheduling the testing program with Progressive Diagnostics.
- Designating a testing place in the school.
- Communicating the positive lab results to the applicable students/families and adhere to the school's contact tracing process.