

SY 2022-2023 K-12 COVID-19 Testing Program School System Application

The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) received an \$803 million ELC Reopening Schools Grant from the federal government in 2021 to support school-based screening testing activities to support the reopening of schools for in-person K-12 instruction. In addition, DSHS partnered with TEA to provide these resources to Texas K-12 public and private school systems to support items or activities to implement pre

- To be most effective, the screening program should test at least once per week, and (within 24 hours) report results to the staff or student tested.
- Screening testing more than once a week might effectively interrupt COVID-19 transmission.
- Schools may consider multiple screening testing strategies such as conducting [pooled testing](#) of cohorts.
- Schools can routinely test student-athletes, participants, coaches, trainers, and other people (such as adult volunteers) who could come into close contact with others during sports and other activities with elevated risk. Schools should consider implementing screening testing of participants up to 24 hours before sporting, competition, or extracurricular events. Schools can use different screening testing strategies for lower-risk sports.

School systems must follow all reporting requirements outlined below to adhere to the federally funded CDC grant requirements.

- Tests and Services Received Report must be submitted within 48 hours of:
 - Receiving ordered tests;
 - The last day of consecutive staffing services. If staff are on-site Monday – Friday, the form must be submitted by close of business the following Monday
 - [Test and Services Received Full Instructions](#)

Example	Testing Days	Must Report By End of Day
1.	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday	Friday
2.	Monday – Friday (all week)	Monday the following week
3.	Monday & Wednesday	Wednesday and Friday

Are you a public school or private school system?

- Public ISD or Charter School System
- Private School

If your school system is not listed below, please email COVIDCaseReport@tea.texas.gov with subject line <School System Cannot Be Found>

Please select your region and LEA from the list below.

- ESC Region
- LEA Name and Number

Please enter the most updated student enrollment and staff employment numbers for your school system.

- Number of K-12 Staff Members
- Current K-12 Student Enrollment

- Name
- Email Address
- Cell phone number

- Name
- Email Address
- Cell phone number

- Name
- Email Address
- Cell phone number

Please select which of the following services you are applying for or select all that apply.

- Tests (rapid antigen and/or PCR)
- Staffing Services to Administer Tests

Participating schools must have a K-12 plan that details screening testing strategies and other activities to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and maintain safe operations in schools as community transmission and/or vaccination rates change. Whenever possible, the proposed plans should align with [CDC guidance](#)

CDC recommends the use of three indicators to measure COVID-19 Community Levels:

- New COVID-19 hospital admissions per 100,000 population in the last 7 days;
- Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by patients with confirmed COVID-19 (7-day average);
- New COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in the last 7 days

TABLE 1. COVID-19 Community Level¹, Indicators, and Thresholds

Indicators	Community Level		
	Low	Medium	High
New COVID-19 Cases Per 100,000 population in the past 7 days	≤ 5	6–20	≥ 21
New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000	≤ 5	6–20	≥ 21
Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by patients with confirmed COVID-19 (7-day average)	≤ 5%	6%–20%	≥ 21%

1. Screening testing is a required mitigation practice to participate in the ELC Reopening Schools Grant

2. School system testing strategies/plan must address changes in testing coverage, type, frequency, and availability as community transmission and/or vaccination rates change. Whenever possible, proposed plans should align with [CDC guidance](#).

Adhering to your school system's screening testing plan throughout the school year unless an emergency/unforeseen circumstances arise.

School systems that choose to participate in the K-12 COVID-19 Testing Program must plan and implement a screening testing approach but may also utilize other testing methods, such as diagnostic or surveillance.

1. Tests and Services Received Report must be submitted within 48 hours of:
 - a. receiving ordered tests;
 - b. the last day of consecutive staffing services. If staff are on-site Monday

Describe how your school system will adjust its testing plan based on a local Medium Community Levels, Indicators, & Thresholds:

- Frequency of screening testing- daily, weekly, & monthly
- Number of testing sites- 1 central location, multiple sites throughout the school systems
- Type of testing- Antigen and/or PCR
- Utilization of testing personnel- internal personnel, community volunteers, contracted vendor testing staff

Describe how your school system will adjust its testing plan based on a local High Community Levels Indicators, & Thresholds:

- Frequency of screening testing- daily, weekly, & monthly
- Number of testing sites- 1 central location, multiple sites throughout the school systems
- Type of testing- Antigen and/or PCR
- Utilization of testing personnel- internal personnel, community volunteers, contracted vendor testing staff

- Failure to comply with the reporting requirements of the grant may lead to a delay in receiving