



The Tennessee Department of Health is working with the Department of Education to assist interested school districts in implementing COVID-19 testing in their facilities. We have received Abbott BinaxNOW™ kits that produce results within approximately 20 minutes.

What requirements exist for those receiving the test kits?

- Recipients must:
 - ✓ Maintain a safe environment for performing testing.
 - ✓ Provide medically trained staff to collect and test specimens (e.g. a school nurse).
 - ✓ Complete [Abbott training available online](#). Please note that we are not using the Navica app.
 - ✓ Maintain the ability and be willing to collect specimens to send to an external laboratory, if necessary.
 - ✓ Maintain the capacity for collecting and storing test-related records.
 - ✓ Report all test results to the TN Department of Health.
 - ✓ Counsel patients based on their results.
 - ✓ Obtain consent for testing of minors.

What is the recommendation for initial school use of BinaxNOW COVID-19 tests kits?

- Test all unvaccinated staff on a weekly basis.
- An alternative is to use these tests with symptomatic staff.
- Testing of students is an option that should be discussed with TDH staff

How can a school make decisions based on the test results?

	Symptomatic	No Symptoms
Positive BinaxNOW Result	<p>Isolate for 10 days following symptom onset.</p> <p>Use TDH's Guidance for Cases for counseling the patient.</p>	<p>Isolate for 10 days following symptom onset.</p> <p>Alternately, if a specimen is collected for a molecular (PCR/NAAT) COVID-19 test within 48 hours, individual should isolate until molecular results are returned. If <u>positive</u>, the individual must isolate for 10 days starting on the day after specimen collection of the positive BinaxNOW result. If the molecular (PCR/NAAT) COVID-19 test is <u>negative</u>, quarantine can be discontinued.</p>
Negative BinaxNOW Result	<p>Within 24-48 hours of the Binax test, collect another specimen for a molecular (PCR/NAAT) COVID-19 test. Individual should isolate until the molecular results are returned.</p> <p>If the molecular (PCR/NAAT) COVID-19 test is <u>positive</u>, the individual must isolate for 10 days starting on the day after the specimen was collected for molecular (PCR/NAAT) testing.</p> <p>If the molecular (PCR/NAAT) COVID-19 test is <u>negative</u>, the individual may return to normal activities once they are afebrile for at least 24 hours.</p>	<p>No restrictions on activities</p>

- Close contacts must adhere to [TDH quarantine guidelines](#). Fully vaccinated individuals (≥2 weeks following receipt of either the second dose in a 2-dose series or one dose of a single-dose vaccine) and those with a positive COVID-19 test in the previous 90-days do not need to quarantine if they are without symptoms.

Additional information from [CDC Guidance about Antigen Tests](#)

What do I need to know about the molecular tests?

1. Molecular tests are considered the gold standard in COVID-19 testing.
2. One option for PCR testing is a kit manufactured by Everlywell, which the state can provide to partners while supplies last.
3. Any person that uses an Everlywell kit must be 16 years or older.
4. Instructions for use:
 - a. Hand the staff member one kit to collect sample immediately.
 - b. Collect the kit from the staff member once collection has been completed.
 - c. Make sure the kits are sent to UPS on the same day the specimen was collected.
 - d. Follow the SOP [here](#).

How do I report the results to TDH?

Follow the guidance for [reporting Point of Care Results](#)

How do I order kits and how many do I order?

- Establish an account in TEMA's Survey123 by emailing COVID19.Testing@tn.gov with the following information: 1) School Name, 2) County, 3) Address 4) Point of contact (first/last name, email, and phone number)
- Follow the guidance [here](#) to order:
 - For the CLIA number, please enter "TN DOE School".
 - Fill out the survey completely
 - Order one month's supply initially.
 - Ex: If you have 100 staff in the building
 - Order 400 BinaxNOW Kits
 - Order 100 Everlywell kits (these are molecular self-collection kits)
 - For future orders, please place orders you think will last 1-2 months and try to limit orders to 1 per month maximum.
- Please remember that all COVID-19 testing kits are supplied based on availability. Please order based on your immediate needs.

How can I order additional external Binax Quality Control kits?

- Test sites should email their request to HHS: HHSbinax@hhs.gov
- The same email needs to copy Col Mol on each request: MOL, ROSS A Lt Col US Air Force HAF AF/A4P <ross.mol@us.af.mil>
- Binax QC kits have 10 positive controls/kit: 195-080: BinaxNOW™ COVID-19 Ag Control Swab Kit (10 Positive Swabs)

A variety of resources regarding BinaxNOW testing are available at the [TDH website](#)

- [TDH BinaxNOW General Guidance](#) /// [Reporting Point of Care Results](#) /// [Ordering Additional BinaxNOW Kits](#) /// [What Does a Positive Antigen Test Mean?](#) /// [What Does a Negative Antigen Test Mean?](#) /// [Testing Decision Making](#) /// [School FAQs](#)

If your school/school district is interested in participating in this pilot or if you have any additional questions, please reach out to our COVID Education Team at COVID.Education@tn.gov

FAQs about Rapid COVID-19 Testing in Schools:

- **How much do the tests cost?**
 - Both the BinaxNOW Rapid test and the PCR test (Everlywell) are free to schools (while supplies last).
- **Which schools or school systems can participate?**
 - Public, Charter, and Private schools
 - All staff in above facilities (not spouses/ dependents)
- **How reliable are the rapid test results?**
 - There is value in the rapid testing, but the BinaxNOW is not perfect, so we need confirmation from the gold standard (PCR) test when there are outliers.
- **Are false-positives among people who do not have symptoms in BinaxNow rapid test possible?**
 - With any test, false positive results are possible. That's the reason we need the confirmatory test. You may be out of school for a couple of days, but that's better than 10 or 14 days.
- **Do I need to wait between taking a rapid test and the gold standard test?**
 - The gold standard (PCR) tests can be taken at the same time as the rapid tests. Remember, it takes a few days to receive the results, so you need to quarantine at home during that time.
- **Do I need to obtain consent from any staff/students that will be tested?**
 - In general, yes. Defer to your institutional leadership for specifics on the consent required for a laboratory test to be performed on staff or students.
- **How are my decisions affected by the new CDC quarantine guidelines released on December 2nd, 2020?**
 - Quarantine is still recommended for 14 days for close contacts.
 - Quarantine can end after Day 10 without testing if you do not have symptoms.
 - You should continue to monitor yourself for COVID symptoms through Day 14.
 - Mask wearing is especially important though Day 14 and should also continue beyond your quarantine period.
 - Quarantine can end after Day 7 if you do not have symptoms and if you test negative by PCR or antigen test after Day 5.
 - Please refer to the Tennessee Department of Health isolation and quarantine guidance for more details. <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/cedep/novel-coronavirus/Isolation-QuarantineRelease.pdf>