



## Summary of K-12 Testing Scenarios<sup>1</sup>

Scenario	Types of FDA-Approved Test	When is a confirmatory test needed?
<p><b>Screening Testing:</b></p> <p>Regular testing of asymptomatic persons.</p> <p>Persons who had COVID-19 within the last 90 days do not need to participate in screening testing. If they do, PCR tests should NOT be used.</p>	<p>-Antigen<sup>2</sup> -PCR<sup>3</sup> -Point-of-care NAAT<sup>4</sup></p> <p>Home antigen tests may be used, <b>except</b> when testing staff who are required to undergo testing in lieu of vaccination by state Order.</p>	<p>Confirmatory testing is not recommended.</p>
<p><b>Diagnostic Testing:</b></p> <p>Testing of <b>symptomatic persons</b>, regardless of vaccination status</p> <p>To return to school/work, individuals also must have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-No fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication</li> <li>-Improving symptoms</li> </ul>	<p>-Antigen<sup>2</sup> (preferred in persons who have had COVID-19 within the last 90 days) -PCR<sup>3</sup> -Point-of-care NAAT<sup>4</sup></p> <p><b>Home tests may be used</b>, but it is recommended that one of the methods outlined by CDPH<sup>5</sup> to verify unsupervised or unobserved results is also used.</p>	<p>Persons with symptoms suspicious for COVID-19 (e.g., congestion, sore throat, cough) with a <b>negative</b> antigen test should repeat testing 24 to 48 hours later. <b>Antigen tests may not detect infection in the early stages.</b></p>
<p><b>Clearance Testing:</b></p> <p>Testing of <b>persons with COVID-19</b> to determine if they can return to school/work prior to completing a 10-day isolation period</p> <p>To return to school/work, individuals also must have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-No fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication</li> <li>-Improving symptoms</li> </ul>	<p>-Antigen preferred</p> <p><b>Home tests may be used</b>, but it is recommended that one of the methods outlined by CDPH<sup>5</sup> to verify unsupervised or unobserved results is also used.</p>	<p>Persons with a diagnosis of COVID-19 who wish to return to school/work before completing a 10-day isolation should test <b>ONCE</b> using an antigen test on Day 5 or later. If the test is positive, complete 10 days of isolation <b>without further testing</b>.</p>
<p><b>Exposure (students):</b></p> <p>Testing of <b>asymptomatic</b> student close contacts</p> <p><b>All students</b> who are exposed <i>at school</i> can continue to attend school and participate in school-based extracurricular activities. <b>Students should be tested 3 to 5 days after their exposure.</b></p>	<p>-Antigen<sup>2</sup> (preferred in persons who have had COVID-19 within the last 90 days) -PCR<sup>3</sup> -Point-of-care NAAT<sup>4</sup></p> <p><b>Home tests may be used</b>, but it is recommended that one of the methods outlined by CDPH<sup>5</sup> to verify unsupervised or unobserved results is also used.</p>	<p>Confirmatory testing is not recommended. If someone develops symptoms while in quarantine, they must follow the recommendations under “Diagnostic Testing” above AND complete their quarantine if test is negative.</p>

<sup>1</sup> Please also see [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-22 School Year](#), [Group-Tracing Approach to Students Exposed to COVID-19 in a K-12 Setting](#) and [CDPH Updated Testing Guidance](#)

<sup>2</sup> See the [list of FDA-authorized antigen tests](#) for details about each test’s authorized use

<sup>3</sup> Or other laboratory-based Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT). Pooled PCR testing is an acceptable strategy for screening testing or quarantine testing but NOT diagnostic testing.

<sup>4</sup> A NAAT is a Nucleic Acid Amplification Test. Point-of care tests are most accurate when done at a clinic or testing site by a someone trained in their use. In general, laboratory-based NAATs (e.g. PCR) are more accurate than point-of-care NAATs.

<sup>5</sup> See [CDPH’s over-the-counter test guidance](#)



Scenario	Types of FDA-Approved Test	When is a confirmatory test needed?
<p><b>Exposure (staff):</b> Testing of <b>asymptomatic</b> staff close contacts</p> <p><b>Vaccinated staff</b> (including booster-eligible but unboosted) who are exposed can continue to come to work. <b>Staff should be tested 3 to 5 days after their exposure.</b></p>	<p>-Antigen<sup>2</sup> (preferred in persons who have had COVID-19 within the last 90 days) -PCR<sup>3</sup> -Point-of-care NAAT<sup>4</sup></p> <p><b>Home tests may be used</b>, but it is recommended that one of the methods outlined by CDPH<sup>5</sup> to verify unsupervised or unobserved results is also used.</p>	<p>Confirmatory testing is not recommended. If someone develops symptoms while in quarantine, they must follow the recommendations under “Diagnostic Testing” above AND complete their quarantine if test is negative.</p>