



Summary of K-12 Testing Scenarios¹

Scenario	Types of FDA-Approved Test	When is a confirmatory test needed?
<p>Screening Testing:</p> <p>Regular testing of asymptomatic, unvaccinated students</p>	<p>-Antigen² -PCR³ -Point-of-care NAAT⁴</p> <p>Home antigen tests may be used.</p>	<p>Confirmatory testing is not recommended.</p>
<p>Diagnostic Testing:</p> <p>Testing of symptomatic students, regardless of vaccination status, who would like to return to school/work early before end of 10-day isolation period.</p> <p>To return, students also must have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -No fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication -Improving symptoms 	<p>-Antigen² -PCR³ (preferred) -Point-of-care NAAT⁴</p> <p>Home antigen tests may be used, but negative results should be confirmed.</p>	<p>Negative HOME antigen test results should be confirmed with a monitored test. This can be an antigen test or a molecular test except in the scenario below.</p> <p>ANY negative antigen test (home OR monitored) should be confirmed with a molecular test (not antigen) when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symptoms include the loss of taste or smell. • Healthcare provider suspicion for COVID-19 remains high. <p><i>Monitored tests</i> can be done at school as part of a school testing program or at a testing site/healthcare provider's office.</p>
<p>Modified Quarantine:</p> <p>Testing of asymptomatic, unvaccinated, masked student close contacts (indoors or outdoors).</p> <p>Can continue attending school during quarantine (2 tests/week starting immediately after exposure, then at least 3 days apart).</p> <p>Quarantine can end after Day 7 if a test is collected <u>on or after day 5</u> from the last date of exposure and the test is negative.</p> <p>Day 0 is the date of exposure.</p>	<p>-Antigen² -PCR³ (preferred) -Point-of-care NAAT⁴</p> <p>Testing for modified quarantine should be monitored (e.g. at school or health care provider's office).</p> <p>Home antigen tests are not recommended.</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>
<p>Shortened Quarantine:</p> <p>Testing of asymptomatic, unvaccinated, masked OR unmasked student close contacts (indoors or outdoors).</p> <p>Quarantine can end after Day 7 if a test is collected <u>on or after day 5</u> from the last date of exposure and the test is negative.</p> <p>Day 0 is the date of exposure.</p>	<p>-Antigen² -PCR³ (preferred) -Point-of-care NAAT⁴</p> <p>Testing for shortened quarantine should be monitored (e.g. at school or health care provider's office).</p> <p>Home antigen tests are not recommended.</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>

¹ Please also see [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-22 School Year](#) and [CDPH Updated Testing Guidance](#)

² See the [list of FDA-authorized antigen tests](#) for details about each test's authorized use

³ 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.

⁴ 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.