



COVID-19 Testing in Oregon's Schools

FAQs *(Updated 2/16/2021)*

Q1: What is the purpose of the COVID 19 testing program in Oregon's school?

A1: The purpose of the statewide testing program is to provide rapid COVID 19 testing to students and staff who develop symptoms consistent with COVID 19.

Q2: Can schools use the BinaxNOW test kits to conduct regular /monthly schoolwide testing for COVID 19 (i.e. surveillance)?

A2: No. The BinaxNOW tests may only be used in accordance with the School Testing Guidance from OHA/ODE. These tests may not be used for surveillance testing of students or staff without symptoms or exposure.

Q3: The BinaxNOW website details the use of the Navica smartphone App. Are schools required to use the app for testing?

A3: OHA does not recommend use of the NAVICA smartphone App as it does not satisfy the reporting requirements for COVID-19.

Q4: Module 2 video states 8 drops of reagent, module 4 states 6 drops, and the OHA document says 6 drops. Are we supposed to do 6 drops?

A4: 6 drops of reagent should be used when conducting testing. 8 drops of reagent should be used when conducting quality control

Q5: Can my school have more than one School Testing Administrator?

A5: Yes! Schools should designate a back-up school testing administrator in the event of absence of the primary testing administrator. This also allows for widespread coverage for schools with large student enrollment.

Q6: How long does it take to receive the BinaxNOW test kits?

A6: 7-10 business days after the registration form is submitted.

Q7: If a student does not have a consent form signed, but starts to show symptoms and you call the parent/guardian to inform them of their student's symptoms and they provide verbal permission/consent to perform the test, are you able to give the test?

A7: No. Written consent must be on file prior to administering the BinaxNOW test. The OHA testing guidance strongly recommends distributing the consent forms to parent(s)/guardian(s) before launching school testing.

Q8: If a school is required to offer testing due to advisory metrics, can you please clarify how often the tests must be administered....and who must take the test (all students, all staff, etc.) How often should students or staff who are presenting symptoms be tested?

A8: The testing program is not serial or surveillance testing. It is only designed for students and staff who develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19 while on campus or students and staff in exposed school cohorts (e.g., classrooms) when recommended by the local public health authority. The testing program is required in schools that reside in counties that exceed the metrics. Testing should not be conducted regularly.

Q9: What happens if our school runs out of BinaxNOW tests and needs to order more?

A9: When your school has twenty(20) remaining BinaxNOW tests, the school should submit an email to schooltesting.covid@dhsosha.state.or.us to request new test kits. OHA will review your request and respond within 24hours.

Q10: Is consent required prior to testing? If so, can a student provide verbal consent?

A10: OHA requires written consent for all students under the age of 18receiving the BinaxNOW test. FERPA mandates parental consent up to the age of 18 in educational settings.

Q11: Can a parent opt-out of the student(s) receiving the BinaxNOW COVID test?

A11: Yes. A parent may choose not to provide consent for COVID-19 testing.

Q12: If a student tests positive, should schools test the entire cohort that same day?

A12: No. When a student or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19, their cohorts (e.g., classroom, reading group, chess club) may be considered exposed and required to quarantine. Every positive test result should be reported directly to the local public health authority immediately so that they may determine which members of the cohort are considered exposed, and if testing of exposed students/staff is recommended. Local public health can also provide appropriate follow-up with the family and link the family to quarantine and isolation support when needed.

Q13: What is the protocol for disposing the BinaxNOW test after a student or staff has been tested?

A13: All components of the test kit may be discarded into a trash can. Additional information about the proper disposal of medical waste exposed to COVID-19 may be found here: <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/FilterDocs/COVID19MedicalWasteFS.pdf>.

Q14: My school is in a county that exceeds its metrics and is required to offer testing. How long does my school have to implement the BinaxNOW testing program?

A14: Schools required to offer access to this program will have two weeks to register, train for, and administer the program when or if metrics change in their county in a way that makes this program a requirement.

Q15: We are operating K-12 in hybrid programming. If we are above 200 but below 350, are we required to test our symptomatic middle and high school students and staff, but not elementary?

A15: This program is required for schools operating grades 6-12 while in the Transition (Orange) column of the advisory metrics. While the metrics are advisory for determining instructional model, the testing program must also be offered if you are expanding grades while in the Transition (Orange) or Distance Learning (Red) columns.

Q16: Do you have suggestions for choosing the best location for the student or staff to do the self-swab collection?

A16: Choose an area that has ample space that allows the testing administrator to observe the self-swab from a safe distance, and also allows for privacy. The area should be well-ventilated. Facilities without HVAC systems could designate an area with an open window (refer to section 2j “Cleaning, Disinfection, and Ventilation” in Ready Schools, Safe Learners for additional ventilation guidance). If your facility has a convenient outdoor area (with overhead protection from rain if needed), this can also be considered.

Q17: Where can I obtain the Spanish Language consent form and forms to speak with parents about their student’s positive or negative test result?

A17: The Spanish Language version of the forms are available here:

Registration form:

<https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/ls3560A.pdf>

Consent form:

<https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/ls3560B.pdf>

Positive result notification:

<https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/ls3560C.pdf>

Negative result notification:

<https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/ls3560D.pdf>

Q18: How should our school share the BinaxNOW antigen test result? Should we give the results to the student as soon as the test is completed, or wait until the parent/guardian arrives to pick up the ill student?

A18: The test result (positive, negative, or indeterminant) should be shared with the parent or guardian when they arrive to pick up the student. Do not share the test results with the student until the parent or guardian arrives, to ensure the student has the appropriate emotional support as needed. Refer to section 7 "Mental, Social, and Emotional Health," in the Ready Schools, Safe Learners guidance.

Q19: If the testing administrator leaves the room briefly while waiting for the 15 minute antigen test to finish, should all PPE be removed before exiting the room?

A19: Yes. In order to decrease the risks of (1) testing administrator exposure and (2) cross-contamination of the environment, all PPE should be considered contaminated and removed prior to leaving the testing area. This includes disposable gloves, single-use medical grade mask, and eye protection. Please refer to the testing guidance document for more guidance on putting on and removing PPE.

Document accessibility: For individuals with disabilities or individuals who speak a language other than English, OHA can provide information in alternate formats such as translations, large print, or braille. Contact the Health Information Center at 1-971-673-2411, 711 TTY or COVID19.LanguageAccess@dhsosha.state.or.us.