



## DELAWARE COVID-19 TESTING: INFORMATION FOR SCHOOL STAFF

As K-12 schools (district, charter, and private) begin the process of re-opening for the fall semester, the State of Delaware is committed to providing testing services to all school staff members to support a safe educational environment for all. To do so, the State is working with Vault Medical to provide an easy, at-home testing option.

The Division of Public Health (DPH) recommends staff get tested **7-10 days** prior to entering a school, with the goal of having test results as close as possible to the start of in-person sessions. Even if students will not be present, all staff who will be in schools should be tested. Test results take approximately 72 hours to receive once the test has been mailed to the lab.

Once the school year begins, staff members will be continually tested. Schools should split their staff list into four groups and will be provided codes for 25% of their staff weekly for surveillance.

Staff members will need email and internet access to participate in the testing process.

### THE TESTING PROCESS

- Staff members will receive a URL from their school administrator to request a test kit.
  - Staff members should log in within 24 hours of receipt.
  - Staff members should provide their home address for the mailing address.
- Kits will be received via UPS on the next business day.
- Staff members will log into Zoom to perform the test under the supervision of a Vault medical professional.
- Staff members will package the sample in the prepaid box and drop it off at a UPS drop box.
  - Dropbox locations can be found here: [https://www.ups.com/dropoff/?loc=en\\_US](https://www.ups.com/dropoff/?loc=en_US)
- Results will be provided within approximately 72 hours.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **Is there any cost to the school or the staff member for the testing?**

No. There is no charge for this testing.

### **Is testing required?**

The State is not requiring testing, but it is strongly recommended.

### **Is this testing program open to higher education institutions?**

No. Currently, this testing program is open to K-12 staff, and districts with pre-K programs only. Staff at higher education institutions and childcare sites not associated with a district may still utilize community testing sites. See <https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/testing/> for more information.

### **What if I have more questions about the testing process?**

Vault Medical will provide a helpline to assist with questions, concerns, or problems. Log in with your URL provided by your school to access the helpline.

### **Is the test a nasal swab or saliva swab?**

There is no swabbing involved—the test is performed by spitting into the collection tube.

### **Will Vault share the results of staff members' tests with the school administration?**

No. Vault will share results with DPH. DPH will only share results with school officials when necessary to address a public health risk.

### **Can I utilize other testing methods?**

Yes. Staff can utilize any community testing sites or work with their medical provider to get tested if they prefer.

### **How long will the URL stay active?**

Staff members are encouraged to utilize their link within 24 hours, but the link will stay active for up to 7 days.

### **Will DPH notify the school if a staff member tests positive?**

Yes. DPH will notify the school nurse. Additionally, the DPH epidemiologist will advise close contacts if and when they should be tested due to potential exposure. DPH will ensure testing is available for staff and students who may have been exposed, which may be through existing community sites.

### **How often should staff members be tested?**

DPH recommends all school staff get tested monthly. Schools will be provided links to ensure staff have access to testing at least once a month.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **Can support staff like seasonal coaches be tested?**

Yes. Any staff who will potentially be in a school building should be tested.

### **Can schools utilize a consent form that would allow Vault Medical to share results directly with schools?**

No. School nurses will be notified of any positive results in their school by DPH.

### **Will the lab be able to keep up with the influx of testing?**

Yes. Vault has the testing capacity to handle the increase and will be able to provide results within approximately 72 hours even if many staff members test on the same day.

### **Will I have to wait for someone to see me on Zoom so I can take my test?**

Wait times have been under five minutes on average in other states utilizing Vault's services.

### **Will I have to create an account with Vault even though I have a personal URL?**

Yes. Staff members will be asked to create an account and then will be asked a series of screening questions about their exposure and any symptoms.

### **Will I be sent a test kit even if I have not been exposed and/or are not exhibiting any symptoms?**

Yes. All staff members are eligible to be tested, regardless of symptoms or exposure.

### **Will I have to create a new account each time they get tested?**

No. You will be able to utilize your original account but will be provided a new link to request a test at no charge each time you are tested.

### **Can students get tested as part of this program?**

No. Students are not eligible to receive test kits as part of this program. Students can utilize community testing sites, which will be expanded closer to returning to school.