COVID-19 Testing in Schools and Childcare

Meredith Vadis, Chief Operating Officer of the Testing Workgroup
The mission of the Testing Work Group is to operationalize the Minnesota Testing Plan that provides the data needed to achieve Minnesota’s goals for management of the COVID-19 global pandemic, which includes:

- Minimize illness and death in Minnesota
- Optimize health care and public health resources
- Protect vulnerable populations
- Safely decrease or more narrowly target social distancing measures in order to return individuals to work, school, and recreational activities
- Understand the epidemiology and control of this disease
Case Investigation & Contact Tracing Approach

**Goal:** Identify new positive cases, assist those individuals in successfully isolating and assist contacts in successfully quarantining

Must be effective across populations

- Inequitable impacts of COVID-19
- To be effective, staffing must reflect community it serves
- Trauma-informed approach to all elements of program
Unmitigated Spread of COVID-19
Spread with Case Investigation and Contact Tracing
Comprehensive COVID Care Plan for Educators

A. On-demand test available for every educator

B. Local testing available for small outbreaks

C. Large-scale testing event planned for larger outbreaks
A. On-demand testing

- A key component of Minnesota’s back to school planning ensures our teachers and staff have COVID-19 testing available to them if needed.

- All teachers and staff will receive access to a COVID-19 Saliva Test at no cost to them.

- Teachers will take the test in their own homes and will not need to visit a testing center or medical office.
Vault Health, working with RUCDR Infinite Biologics, developed a process to conduct physician-ordered testing using a supervised telemedicine collection of a saliva specimen at home.

Test Results are reported directly to each teacher by email.

This test protocol eliminates the risk of provider-to-patient exposure and eliminates waste of scarce personal protective equipment (PPE).
No Swabs, Just Spit!
Get Started with Your Phone or Computer

1. **Get your kit**
   - Click a link. Order your kit. Get your code.

2. **Get your kit**
   - The box will be delivered to your address via overnight delivery. Read the blue instruction card. DO NOT OPEN THE TEST TUBE PACKAGE until you are instructed on your ZOOM video call.

3. **Prepare for your saliva collection supervised by a medical practitioner over a ZOOM call**
   - Log into the Vault Health website and connect with a medical practitioner over a ZOOM video call. You will be guided through collecting saliva in the tube. The whole process takes just a few minutes.

4. **Ship the kit back using provided shipping label**
   - Your kit includes everything you need to send your sample back via prepaid UPS shipping.

5. **Get your results**
   - You will get a report of your results (positive, negative, or inconclusive) roughly 48 hours after your sample arrives at the lab.
Order A Test and Use It When You Need It

All teachers will have access to a Saliva Test code starting in late August.

Use the code to order a test kit whenever you’re ready.

Use it or save it for when you need it. If you are concerned you have been at risk of exposure or are experiencing symptoms, take the test ASAP.

No need to store it in any special place. Keep it handy so you don’t forget.
When your test arrives, follow the instructions in the blue card. Do not eat, drink, smoke or chew gum for 30 minutes prior to joining the Zoom waiting room.
Overnight To Lab Then 48 Hours to Your Email
Local testing (Exposures < 50)

Local public health, local health system and school district or childcare provider partner to ensure testing availability to students and educators

- State will assist as needed
- Education prioritized in new Health Alert Network guidance from Minnesota Department of Health

Ideal for students and educators because of connection to health care for possible future needs
1. Large-scale Testing Event

State supplements local resources with staffing, lab capacity, logistics, registration, resulting and other assistance

Everyone can participate

May be specific to a school or combined with a larger community testing event
Thank you!

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