

School-Based COVID Testing Plan*

This 3-Part Testing Plan is part of a layered approach to stop the spread of COVID-19 in schools.

PART 1: SCREENING TESTING

Essex County Health Department (ECHD) will be on site of schools to conduct Screening Testing following the CDC's Level of Transmission in Essex County for any given week. Parents/guardian consent is needed through an online parent portal. The Test, called [Clarifi COVID-19 Test](#) is a very easy oral swab and results are available in 24-48 hours. The test is being conducted by Quadrant Lab at Upstate Medical. *Schools are asked to support testing by identifying eligible people for screening testing, securing consent, and providing space & a school liaison for testing.*

Table: Screening Testing Plan for K-12 Schools by Level of Community Transmission; Source CDC

	Low Transmission ¹ Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
Students	Do not need to screen students.	Offer screening testing for students who are not fully vaccinated at least once per week.		
Teachers and staff	Offer screening testing for teachers and staff who are not fully vaccinated at least once per week.			
High risk sports and activities	Recommend screening testing for high-risk sports ² and extracurricular activities ³ at least once per week for participants who are not fully vaccinated.		Recommend screening testing for high-risk sports and extracurricular activities twice per week for participants who are not fully vaccinated.	Cancel or hold high-risk sports and extracurricular activities virtually to protect in-person learning, unless all participants are fully vaccinated.
Low- and intermediate-risk sports	Do not need to screen students participating in low- and intermediate-risk sports. ²	Recommend screening testing for low- and intermediate-risk sports at least once per week for participants who are not fully vaccinated.		

Part 2: Symptomatic Testing for Sick Student/Faculty/Staff at School

ECHD will provide on-site testing supplies for use by school nurses or other trained staff at the school. This allows any sick student, faculty or staff member to be easily tested right at school by your trusted school nurse and get results immediately. It removes access to testing barriers like making appointments or slow turn-around time waiting for results. It allows for isolation of COVID cases quickly and returns all others to the school community quickly and safely. The Test, called [Abbott ID NOW COVID-19 Test](#) is a very easy nasal swab and results are available in 15 minutes.

*Subject to change pending updated NYSDOH, CDC and NYSED reopening guidance.

Part 3: Exposure-Based Screening Testing for Sick Student/Faculty/Staff at School

Another test, called the [Abbott Binax Now](#), is also a very easy nasal swab and results are available in 15 minutes. ECHD will offer this exposure-based screening option for vaccinated and unvaccinated students, faculty, and staff following an exposure to a positive case during high-risk school-based activities. These activities can include close contact and/or indoor sports, band, choir, theater, and indoor school clubs. This exposure-based screening testing is considered when including exposed individuals in the screening testing option (Part 1) is not possible at 3-5 days following exposure. *Schools are asked to support ECHD by identifying the person/s who will be trained to use the testing supplies and work with the health department for reporting and response (contact tracing) efforts.*