



QUAKER VALLEY

— SCHOOL DISTRICT —

EST. 1956

Health and Safety Update (COVID-19 Testing Program)
October 12, 2021

What type of testing program is the District considering? What are the associated costs?



The District is considering the implementation of "voluntary," symptomatic individual rapid antigen testing.



To prioritize and protect in-person learning and reduce the transmission of COVID-19, the Pennsylvania Department of Health (Department) is offering to provide testing services through a third-party vendor (Ginkgo Labs), at no cost, to all K-12 schools across the Commonwealth for the entire 2021-2022 school year.

What are the goals of the program?



To add another layer of mitigation to prevent the spread of COVID-19



To keep students in-school, learning and participating in co-curricular athletics and activities



How will the program work?

The process begins when it is determined by the school nurse or head athletic trainer that a student has symptoms typical of COVID-19 to the extent that the student would typically be sent home from school to seek testing, or to remain home for 10-days until symptoms resolve (***see Quaker Valley Health Screening COVID-19 Symptom Guidelines**). Following this determination:

- Parents would be notified that their student is symptomatic and must be picked up from school (and would need a documented negative test to return), or the parent would be offered the rapid antigen test.
- Parent would either pick up the student, or consent (through an online portal) to allow the student to “self-administer” the rapid antigen test (nasal swab in nostril, not sinus cavity).
- The test result would be recorded in the secure online portal provided by Ginkgo Labs, and the result would be uploaded to the PA Department of Health’s database.
- If negative, the student could resume school activities, or be picked up if they were not feeling well enough to continue the day (but not be required to quarantine).
- If positive, the student would be excluded from school in accordance with CDC and ACHD guidelines for at least 10-days
- Positive test results will also be sent to the ACHD in accordance with their requirements. A physician’s network (through Ginkgo Labs) will also contact the family to provide guidance and support

*The same testing protocol will be available to staff as well

Who is not eligible to be tested in school?

Asymptomatic individuals

Symptomatic individuals who are at home, but want to come into school to be tested (these individuals need to contact their family doctor, or make an appointment with a testing center, i.e., pharmacy)

Quarantined individuals who want to test on day 5, to return to school in 7 days

*Testing is for mitigation and to keep students and staff in school, the District is not seeking to become a medical facility



Is the testing data secure?

By signing the required Statement of Assurances, the District agrees as follows:

- The privacy of every individual participating in the testing program must be protected. Before disclosing any personally identifiable information (PII) or protected health information (PHI) to anyone other than the Department, consent shall be obtained. For students under 18 years old, consent must be obtained from a parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student and the federal Family Educational Rights Privacy Act (FERPA) must be followed.
- Authorized Schools are required to identify school staff who will be accessing the Department's Authorized Vendor's online testing portal, such as a school nurse or pandemic coordinator. Authorized Schools must limit the number of staff who have access to the portal to ensure PII and PHI are being viewed by only the necessary staff to quickly conduct isolation, quarantine, and contact tracing.
- Authorized Schools must establish and maintain appropriate safeguards to prevent any use or disclosure of PII and PHI, except as needed to administer this testing program, to protect the confidentiality of the PII and PHI that is created, received, maintained, or transmitted by the Authorized School.



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Questions from the Board?