# Start-Up Guide for Covid-19 Testing in Schools

Regular testing can keep kids in school and Covid out

## 1. Find a School Testing Provider

- Go [here](#) to learn about your testing options & to contact your state’s testing provider(s).
- Learn about the different test options (pooled PCR, individual PCR, & rapid antigen) [here](#) and [here](#).
- Use this [questionnaire](#) to make sure the provider’s services meet your school’s needs.

## 2. Make a Testing Plan

- Start with a [simple checklist](#), or detailed planning [template](#).
- Create a dedicated testing team to determine how many staff & students will participate, when, & where you’ll test. Go [here](#) for sample schedules.
- Plan for how you’ll isolate a student who tests positive during school hours, & then [identify close contacts](#) & notify their families.

## 3. Communicate with the School Community

- Plan a communications strategy for engaging parents & students. Start with [templates & videos](#) from other schools.
- Use this [toolkit](#) or [this toolkit](#) to explain how testing can keep kids in school.
- Get consent from parents & students. Go [here](#) to learn how.

## 4. Learn More and Connect

- Watch day-in-the life graphics that show how different testing programs can look in schools.
- Watch saliva testing at a high school and an elementary school (1 min. 30 sec.).
- Watch nasal swab testing in an elementary school (2 min).
- Watch rapid antigen testing in a middle school (1 min. 30 sec.).
- Watch school leaders discuss how they’re communicating with students and families (1 hr. webinar).
- Watch school leaders discuss fall 2021 testing and reopening (1 hr. webinar).
- Connect with [peers](#) who are already testing.

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