Alameda County Health Care Services Agency
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Summary of K-12 Testing Scenarios[1]

Scenario	Types of FDA-Approved Test	When is a confirmatory molecular test needed?	At-home testing?
Screening Testing: Regular testing of asymptomatic, **unvaccinated** students	-Antigen[2] -PCR[3] -Point-of-care NAAT[4]	Negative antigen: No Positive antigen: Yes, confirmatory testing is *recommended* (isolate pending result) *Confirmatory tests* can be done as part of a school testing program or at a testing site/healthcare provider's office.	Yes, antigen tests may be done at home.
Diagnostic Testing: Testing of **symptomatic students**, regardless of vaccination status, who would like to return to school/work early before end of 10-day isolation period. To return, students also must have: -No fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication -Improving symptoms	-Antigen[2] -PCR[3] (preferred) -Point-of-care NAAT[5]	Negative antigen: Yes, confirmatory testing is *required* Positive antigen: No (begin isolation) According to CDPH guidance: For persons **in quarantine** who experience symptoms, a negative result from an antigen test **or** [point-of-care] molecular test *should be confirmed* with a laboratory-based PCR test. *Confirmatory tests* can be done at school as part of a school testing program or at a testing site/healthcare provider's office.	Yes, antigen tests may be done at home.
Modified Quarantine: Testing of **asymptomatic, unvaccinated, masked** student close contacts (indoors or outdoors), who want continue attending school during quarantine (2 tests/week starting immediately after exposure, then at least 3 days apart)	-Antigen[2] -PCR[3] (preferred) -Point-of-care NAAT[4] Testing for modified quarantine should be supervised (e.g. at school or health care provider's office).	Negative antigen: No Positive antigen: No (begin isolation)	Home antigen tests are not recommended.
Shortened Quarantine: Testing of **asymptomatic, unvaccinated, masked OR unmasked** student close contacts (indoors or outdoors), who want to return to school after 7-day quarantine with a test on or after Day 5 **Day 0** is the date of exposure.	-Antigen[2] -PCR[3] (preferred) -Point-of-care NAAT[4]	Negative antigen: No Positive antigen: No (begin isolation)	Home antigen tests are not recommended.

[1] Please also see COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-22 School Year
[2] See the list of FDA-authorized antigen tests for details about each test's authorized use
[3] Or other laboratory-based Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT). Pooled PCR testing is an acceptable strategy for screening testing or quarantine testing but NOT diagnostic testing.
[4] A NAAT is a Nucleic Acid Amplification Test. Point-of care tests are most accurate when done at a clinic or testing site by a someone trained in their use. In general, laboratory-based NAATs (e.g. PCR) are more accurate than point-of-care NAATs.
[5] A NAAT is a Nucleic Acid Amplification Test. These tests are most accurate when done at a clinic or testing site by a someone trained in their use. The Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the Abbott IDNow explicitly states that a negative result in a person with symptoms needs confirmation by another molecular test. It is important to always follow the language in the EUA for any test. In general, laboratory-based NAATs (e.g. PCR) are more accurate than point-of-care NAATs.