

ReadyCheckGo Testing Program— FAQs for administrators

The Thermo Fisher Scientific™ ReadyCheckGo™ Testing Program, in partnership with Color Health, simplifies coronavirus testing for K–12 students. Here are answers to the most frequently asked questions (FAQs) about the program.

Q: Why do we need to test everyone? Shouldn't we just test those who have symptoms?

A: Bringing kids back into schools and maintaining a healthy classroom is our top priority, which is why we recommend testing everyone. According to the CDC, children are more likely than adults to be *asymptomatic*, meaning they don't show signs of sickness when infected with coronavirus.¹ Given this, kids who appear healthy can still spread the virus to their teachers and peers, so they all need regular testing.

In addition, at the time of any given test, students, teachers, or staff may be *presymptomatic*, meaning that they've recently been infected and have not yet developed symptoms—but still could be contagious. The best way to avoid undetected infections and stop the spread of the virus early is to test everyone, and to do so on a frequent basis.

Q: If students, teachers, and school staff are vaccinated, do they still need to be tested?

A: It depends on the requirements of the district, but we recommend that everyone be tested. While vaccinated people have a much lower risk of being infected, it is still possible, and testing helps provide an early warning system to identify those cases.

Q: How often do we need to test students, teachers, and staff for coronavirus?

A: The Rockefeller Foundation's public health experts recommend that K–12 schools test students for coronavirus once per week, with testing for teachers and staff up to twice weekly.² We can work with you to develop a testing schedule that works best for your needs.

Q: How do I create and implement a coronavirus testing program for my school?

A: The ReadyCheckGo Testing Program offers flexible, cost-effective solutions that schools can adopt to quickly start coronavirus testing. We designed the program based on recommendations from the nation's leading coronavirus testing experts at the CDC and the Rockefeller Foundation, so that you don't have to create your own program from scratch. We'll be there to help guide you—starting with the onboarding process and through any questions that come up when the program is in action.

Q: What if we can't hire new staff for coronavirus testing?

A: Our testing program was designed to minimize the need for new staffing resources or clinical professionals. Existing staff and teachers can access training materials and support that enable them to oversee testing. In cases where schools need additional support, we can work with you to develop a plan that fits your needs.

Q: What type of coronavirus tests are available?

A: The ReadyCheckGo program offers a variety of testing options, including lab-based pooled testing and on-site single-sample testing, such as antigen or rapid PCR tests.

Q: Which testing option should I choose for my district?

A: How a district does testing depends on its goals and needs, and multiple factors can influence this decision, including how frequently you want to test, cost, and logistics. For routine testing, lab-based testing using PCR technology is considered the “gold standard” and the most accurate type of test by coronavirus testing experts. Testing on-site with antigen or rapid PCR tests can be another strong option for routine testing, primarily because it requires less instrumentation and delivers faster results.

Lab-based testing

Q: How does the process work for individual or lab-pooled testing?

A: We provide schools with short nasal swabs that make it easy and more comfortable for students to collect their own samples. With supervision, students will be able to quickly swab their own noses and place their swab in a test tube. Teachers and staff can then easily place the tubes into provided shipping packaging, and arrange for the package to be picked up for transport to labs, where the samples will be tested. Test results are ready within 12 to 48 hours of sample collection. Schools can choose whether they would like teachers, school staff, and families to receive results via text or email—or if the school would like to manage communication of test results on their own. For more information on collecting samples for individual or lab-pooled testing, visit color.com/readycheckgo-training.

Q: Why is pooled testing used? What happens when a pool's results come back positive?

A: Pooling combines up to six samples in a tube for a single test, making testing more efficient and affordable. If a pool is negative, it indicates that no one in the pool has coronavirus. On the other hand, if a pool is positive, it indicates that at least one person in the pool has coronavirus. Schools can then act immediately to ensure the individuals in the positive pool return or stay home until they receive a negative result from a follow-up test.

Non-lab-based testing

Q: How does the process work for on-site antigen and rapid PCR testing?

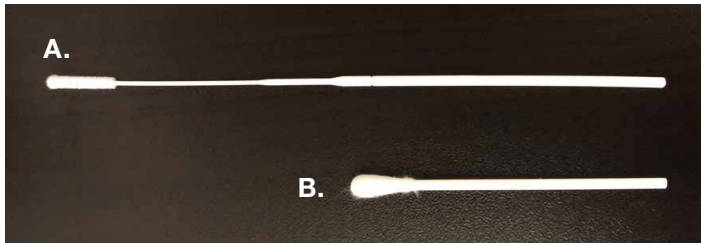
A: We still provide schools with short nasal swabs for students to collect their own test sample and should follow the same process as lab-pooled testing outlined above. However, swabs are processed on-site by designated school staff, rather than being sent to a lab, returning results within 15 to 30 minutes. For more information on the sample collection process for on-site antigen and rapid PCR testing, go to color.com/readycheckgo-training.

Q: Why don't we use saliva for sample collection?

A: Collecting enough saliva to fill the tube can take up to 10 to 12 minutes, which is not suitable for children who naturally do not produce as much saliva as adults. Also, individuals can't eat or drink 30 minutes prior to collecting a saliva sample, making it difficult to find a time that works between breakfast, snack, and lunch breaks.

Q: I've heard that nasal swabbing is uncomfortable and scary—is that true?

A: No, our nasal swabs are short and easy to use. They're about the size of your everyday cotton swab and don't need to be inserted deeply into the nose. We selected a short and more comfortable swab for our testing program. The swabbing process is so simple that kids can do it themselves.



A. Longer swabs that some other testing companies use. **B.** Shorter, more comfortable swabs used by the ReadyCheckGo program.

Q: Do teachers and school staff need to touch students' swabs?

A: No, teachers and staff should not have to touch students' swabs. Older students will be able to swab themselves, and the ReadyCheckGo program can provide on-site staff members who are able to help younger children get swabbed. If students need additional assistance, we provide instructional how-to videos and "how to collect your sample" posters.

Q: How do I sign my district or school up?

A: It's easy—start by filling out this [form](#).

References

1. [Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in K-12 Schools and Early Care and Education Programs | CDC](#)
2. [K-12-NTAP_FINAL.pdf \(rockefellerfoundation.org\)](#)

Find out more at
thermofisher.com/readycheckgo

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