# SY 2022-2023 K-12 COVID-19 Testing Program School System Application

## BACKGROUND:

The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) received an $803 million ELC Reopening Schools Grant from the federal government in 2021 to support school-based screening testing activities to support the reopening of schools for in-person K-12 instruction. In addition, DSHS partnered with TEA to provide these resources to Texas K-12 public and private school systems to support items or activities to implement prevention and mitigation strategies necessary to curtail the spread of COVID-19.

The CDC has decided to exercise expanded authority to permit the extension of these funds for one full year until July 31, 2023. This extension of the grant funds allows for the continuity of current school testing activities and ensures flexibility to ramp up testing when community levels of COVID increase.

Carefully read the considerations and requirements below before opting into the SY 2022-2023 K-12 Testing Project and the SY 2022-2023 School Health Support Grant. School Systems that choose to apply for the School Health Support Grant must confirm that they are implementing screening testing throughout the 2022-2023 school year. To comply with the federal grant, adherence to the requirements is non-negotiable.

## REQUIRED NOTICE:

This K-12 COVID-19 Testing Program is supported by the CDC of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a grant award totaling $803M with 100 percent funded by CDC/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CDC/HHS or the U.S. Government. Please visit the [Center for Disease Control & Prevention](#) website for more information.

## APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY:

1. Any public or private K-12 school system interested in participating in this program must complete the new application process regardless of if they previously opted in the state's COVID testing programs.
2. School systems must implement a screening testing program to participate in the [K-12 COVID-19 Testing Program](#). Screening testing is defined as targeted testing of asymptomatic individuals.
3. School systems where pre-K/daycare students share a building/co-mingle with K-12 students are eligible for participation in the grant.
4. Public & private school systems that participated in the SY2021-2022 Reopening Schools Grant must have completed all the [closeout activities](#) to be eligible to apply for SY2022-2023 Reopening Schools Grant.

5. The City of Houston also received funds through the same federal grant program to support a set of public and private school systems within the City of Houston boundaries. If you are in the Houston area, please review the list of school systems; the City of Houston will support and determine if you are considered eligible for their program. If so, once you apply, you will receive an allocation from the City of Houston to use throughout SY 2022-2023 in TEA's program, for rapid antigen tests only.  The City of Houston will provide PCR tests and staffing support directly through its program.
6. All participating school systems must adhere to all of the SY2022-2023 K-12 COVID-19 Testing Program  Guidance & Eligibility Requirements.
7. Pre-K-only providers and/or daycare providers are NOT eligible for participation in this grant.


## PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS:

1. School systems are required to implement a COVID-19 screening testing program.
2. The school system must have opted into the SY2022-2023  K-12 COVID Testing Program.
3. Each school system will need to identify one test coordinator, one alternative test coordinator, and a superintendent/district official to serve as the primary points of contact for DSHS and TEA. School systems are responsible for contacting TEA if the identified individuals change throughout the school year.
4. School systems can select from the state-approved testing vendor(s) that align with local needs.
5. School systems must review and adhere to all the information provided in the SY2022-2023 K-12 COVID-19 Testing Program Guidance & Eligibility Requirements.
6. School systems will be eligible to receive a funding allotment. As school systems apply, TEA will update the posted allocation spreadsheet within Public Health Orders Card with their allocation amounts within two business days.
7. School systems must ensure they have the appropriate temperature-controlled space to store any COVID-19 tests they opt to receive and administer at the local level.
8. School systems must be vigilant and responsible stewards of public grant funds and provided services.


## TESTING REQUIREMENTS:

School systems that choose to participate in the K-12 COVID-19 Testing Program and the SY 2022-2023 School Health Support Grant must develop a plan for and implement a screening testing approach but may also utilize other testing methods, such as diagnostic or surveillance.  See the CDC COVID-19 K-12 Guidance Document for additional information on screening testing.

**Screening testing is the targeted testing of certain asymptomatic populations

According to the CDC:

- At a minimum, screening testing should be offered to students who have not been fully vaccinated when community transmission is at moderate, substantial, or high levels
- At any level of community transmission, screening testing should, at a minimum, be offered to all teachers and staff who have not been fully vaccinated.

- To be most effective, the screening program should test at least once per week, and (within 24 hours) report results to the staff or student tested.
- Screening testing more than once a week might effectively interrupt COVID-19 transmission.
- Schools may consider multiple screening testing strategies such as conducting pooled testing of cohorts.
- Schools can routinely test student-athletes, participants, coaches, trainers, and other people (such as adult volunteers) who could come into close contact with others during sports and other activities with elevated risk. Schools should consider implementing screening testing of participants up to 24 hours before sporting, competition, or extracurricular events. Schools can use different screening testing strategies for lower-risk sports.

## REPORTING REQUIREMENTS*:

School systems must follow all reporting requirements outlined below to adhere to the federally funded CDC grant requirements.

- **Tests and Services Received Report must be submitted within 48 hours of:**
  - Receiving ordered tests;
  - The last day of consecutive staffing services. If staff are on-site Monday – Friday, the form must be submitted by close of business the following Monday
  - Test and Services Received Full Instructions

| Example | Testing Days | Must Report By End of Day |
|---------|--------------|---------------------------|
| 1. | Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday | Friday |
| 2. | Monday – Friday (all week) | Monday the following week |
| 3. | Monday & Wednesday | Wednesday and Friday |

- Test Administered and Results Reporting:
  - For all tests administered:
    School systems must submit testing results (number of tests administered, excluded, and positives) to the vendor through the vendors' web-based portal for all tests conducted by close of business on Friday; however, TEA and DSHS recommend 24 hours after the end of the testing day as a best practice.
  - For Positive Tests:
    All school systems must notify their local public health authority of positive COVID cases.
- Grant Programmatic Surveys & Additional Reports/Submission
- School systems must respond to any additional data collection survey and/or report requests to remain in compliance (i.e., the End of Year Inventory Report).

*Failure to comply with the reporting requirements of the grant may lead to a delay in receiving future tests, a freeze on your allocation, or removal from the testing program altogether.

## School System Enrollment

Are you a public school or private school system?

- Public ISD or Charter School System
- Private School

## For Public/Charter/ISD:

If your school system is not listed below, please email COVIDCaseReport@tea.texas.gov with subject line <School System Cannot Be Found>

Please select your region and LEA from the list below.

- ESC Region
- LEA Name and Number

## Current Student Enrollment & Staff Members

Please enter the most updated student enrollment and staff employment numbers for your school system.

- Number of K-12 Staff Members
- Current K-12 Student Enrollment

## Primary Test Coordinator Contact Information (District/Charter/Private School):
- Name
- Email Address
- Cell phone number

## District Back-up Test Coordinator Contact Information (District/Charter/Private School):
- Name
- Email Address
- Cell phone number

## Superintendent or Head of Schools Information:
- Name
- Email Address
- Cell phone number

**Please select which of the following services you are applying for or select all that apply.**

- Tests (rapid antigen and/or PCR)
- Staffing Services to Administer Tests

## Testing Plan

### PLAN CONSIDERATIONS
Participating schools must have a K-12 plan that details screening testing strategies and other activities to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and maintain safe operations in schools as community transmission and/or vaccination rates change. Whenever possible, the proposed plans should align with CDC guidance

CDC recommends the use of three indicators to measure COVID-19 Community Levels:

- New COVID-19 hospital admissions per 100,000 population in the last 7 days;
- Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by patients with confirmed COVID-19 (7-day average);
- New COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in the last 7 days

## TABLE 1. COVID-19 Community Levels, Indicators, and Thresholds

| New COVID-19 Cases Per 100,000 people in the past 7 days | Indicators | Low | Medium | High |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fewer than 200 | New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total) | <10.0 | 10.0-19.9 | ≥20.0 |
| | Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average) | <10.0% | 10.0-14.9% | ≥15.0% |
| 200 or more | New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total) | NA | <10.0 | ≥10.0 |
| | Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average) | NA | <10.0% | ≥10.0% |

### REQUIREMENTS:
1. Screening testing is a required mitigation practice to participate in the ELC Reopening Schools Grant

2. School system testing strategies/plan must address changes in testing coverage, type, frequency, and availability as community transmission and/or vaccination rages change. Whenever possible, proposed plans should align with CDC guidance.

Adhering to your school system's screening testing plan throughout the school year unless an emergency/unforeseen circumstances arise.

## REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

School systems that choose to participate in the K-12 COVID-19 Testing Program must plan and implement a screening testing approach but may also utilize other testing methods, such as diagnostic or surveillance.

1. Tests and Services Received Report must be submitted within 48 hours of:
   a. receiving ordered tests;
   b. the last day of consecutive staffing services. If staff are on-site Monday – Friday, the form must be submitted by close of business the following Monday
   c. Test and Services Received Full Instructions
2. Test Administered and Results Reporting:
   a. For all tests administered:
      i. School systems must submit testing results (number of tests administered, excluded, and positives) to the vendor through the vendors' web-based portal for all tests conducted by close of business on Friday; however, TEA and DSHS recommend 24 hours after the end of the testing day as a best practice.
   b. For Positive Tests:
      i. All school systems must notify their local public health authority of all positive COVID cases.

**\*Failure to comply with the reporting requirements of the grant may lead to a delay in receiving future tests, a freeze on your allocation, or removal from the testing program altogether.**

I have fully read and understand the considerations and requirements for the testing program listed above.

- Yes

## TESTING PLAN

Describe how your school system will adjust its' testing plan based on a local Low Community Levels, Indicators, & Thresholds:

- Frequency of screening testing- daily, weekly, & monthly
- Number of testing sites- 1 central location, multiple sites throughout the school systems
- Type of testing- Antigen and/or PCR
- Utilization of testing personnel- internal personnel, community volunteers, contracted vendor testing staff

## TESTING PLAN

Describe how your school system will adjust its' testing plan based on a local Medium Community Levels, Indicators, & Thresholds:

- Frequency of screening testing- daily, weekly, & monthly
- Number of testing sites- 1 central location, multiple sites throughout the school systems
- Type of testing- Antigen and/or PCR
- Utilization of testing personnel- internal personnel, community volunteers, contracted vendor testing staff

## TESTING PLAN

Describe how your school system will adjust its' testing plan based on a local High Community Levels, Indicators, & Thresholds:

- Frequency of screening testing- daily, weekly, & monthly
- Number of testing sites- 1 central location, multiple sites throughout the school systems
- Type of testing- Antigen and/or PCR
- Utilization of testing personnel- internal personnel, community volunteers, contracted vendor testing staff


## TESTING PLAN ATTESTATION

- Failure to comply with the reporting requirements of the grant may lead to a delay in receiving future tests, a freeze on your allocation, or removal from the testing program altogether.
- I have reviewed the requirements of testing program participation and the guidelines and affirm that my public school system or private school can meet these requirements including adhering to our screening testing plan to the best of our abilities throughout SY 2022-2023.
- I have reviewed the reporting requirements for the K-12 COVID-19 Testing Program and affirm that my school system will submit the Tests & Services Received Report in accordance with the guidelines listed above.
- I have reviewed the reporting requirement the K-12 COVID-19 Testing Program and affirm that my school system will submit testing results to the vendor(s) we receive testing products from through the vendor's web-based portal for all tests conducted in accordance with the timeline outline by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS).
- I have affirm my school system will respond to any additional data collection survey an/or report requests to remain in compliance (i.e End of Year Inventory Report).


Submitter's Contact Information:

- Name
- Title
- Email address