



Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) School COVID Screening Testing Program Spring 2021

School COVID-19 screening testing is an additional strategy to add to Connecticut's layered approach to mitigation and will provide another level of prevention to protect students, teachers, and staff and slow the spread of the virus. The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), in partnership with the Connecticut State Department of Education (SDE), is offering this in-school testing initiative through the [Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity \(ELC\) school screening testing program as part of American Rescue Plan Act](#).

The DPH and SDE are now offering all schools (including non-public schools) the opportunity to fund COVID screening testing for spring events or activities prior to June 30, 2021. This includes, but is not limited to, screening testing for proms, athletic activities, spring concerts or trips, and graduation. While the initial focus is on Spring 2021 opportunities for testing, additional resources will be available for school screening testing during the summer and into the fall months, with communication on that topic forthcoming.

School districts interested in COVID screening testing before a spring event or activity are asked to identify an ELC Program Coordinator as their school district contact and complete the attached short testing resource request form to be submitted to **Kristin Gerard** (kristin.gerard@ct.gov) **no later than Tuesday, May 18**. Each district will be connected with a testing partner, and your coordinator will be connected with the testing provider(s) to coordinate logistics.

These services are provided under a state contract with the testing laboratory partner and will be covered by the federal grant. Districts that completed the DPH/SDE COVID testing interest survey submitted in April must also submit this short testing resource request form on or before May 18, 2021, and those who submitted information regarding existing plans should also submit the request form and will be contacted separately about their plans.

- Purpose of ELC Funds:** Provide COVID Screening Testing for Public and Non-Public Schools
- Focus of Funding:** Spring 2021 event or activity-based COVID screening tests
- Eligible Entities:** All public-school districts, private and other non-public schools
- Requirements:**
- 1) **Identify an ELC COVID testing program coordinator for the participating district;**
 - 2) **Complete short testing resource request form (attached); and**
 - 3) **Coordinate logistics, including but not limited to consents and scheduling, with the testing provider(s) that the school district contact is connected with and cooperate with the DPH related to ongoing reporting requirements.**

Submission Deadline for Funding Request Form: Tuesday May 18, 2021

Available Resources: [Guidance - ELC Reopening Schools](#)
[ELC Reopening Schools FAQs](#)
[School Toolkit](#) (Note – This website references multiple testing programs, not just ELC. However, it provides helpful resources that may help school leaders as they operationalize the ELC School Screening Testing Program).