



Spring School COVID Screening Testing Program

May 11, 2021



School COVID Screening Testing Program

Introduction

What: The CDC has allocated funds to Connecticut to invest in school COVID screening testing to support and maintain in-person learning. The funding has broad allowable uses related to school testing, including but not limited to pooled classroom testing, individual school-based or classroom-based testing and event and activity-based testing.

Why: COVID screening testing is an addition to our suite of mitigation strategies, which will provide another layer of prevention to protect school communities, and slow the spread of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

When: The staged roll-out of the ELC School COVID Screening Testing program in Connecticut will start with a focus on events and activities during the Spring of 2021. Our collective experience during the Spring of 2021 will inform next steps to support Summer and School Year 2021-2022 screening testing.

Other information: The CDC has issued an FAQ on this topic, available here: <https://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dpei/pdf/elc-reopening-schools-faq-508.pdf>



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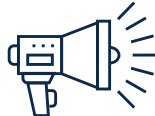
Introduction

Appendix A: Allowable Testing Populations, ELC Reopening Schools

Teacher and/or student population in question	Allowable?
City-sponsored programs (e.g. summer YMCA-programs)	Yes, if they are providing educational and/or recreational activities to K–12 youth
Colleges & Universities	Currently not allowable
Daycare centers	Currently not allowable
Non-public schools (e.g. charter, independent, private)	Yes
Pre-K	Currently not allowable
School-affiliated summer programs (e.g. camps, summer instruction)	Yes
Schools that are already open for in-person instruction	Yes
Schools that are open using a hybrid option	Yes
School-sponsored events (e.g. book fairs, graduations, sporting events)	Yes
Tribal schools	Yes

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Overview

<p>Program Purpose</p> 	<p>DPH and SDE are jointly offering a Spring School Screening Testing Program that will support the goal of in-person learning – currently offered by most CT schools – and will also inform planning of further screening programs in the 2021-2022 school year.</p>
<p>Screening Resources Available</p> 	<p>DPH and SDE are offering school-based screening of students and staff until June 30, 2021, through our testing partner(s).</p> <p>These resources are to be used for event- and activity-based screening.</p> <p>There will be no cost to participating school districts. Testing costs will be covered by the federal ELC grant for school COVID screening, a portion of which SDE and DPH have reserved for Spring 2021 use. If demand for Spring screening testing exceeds the budget for onsite testing and/or testing partners’ capacity, schools will be offered cost-free community-based testing.</p>
<p>Next Steps for Districts</p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify the events/activities you will screen, the schools where screening testing will take place, and the dates when screening testing will take place. 2. Submit your request for onsite screening resources by May 18, 2021, using the Excel form. 3. Your point of contact will be connected with the testing provider(s) to coordinate logistics.

Note: The DPH/SDE team that shared plans for their Spring/Summer screening programs via DPH’s April survey should still submit a screening request form by May 18.

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FAQ

- **What can schools use the onsite screening testing resources for?**

- Resources can be used for any event and activity-based screening testing of students and/or staff.
- If demand exceeds available screening capacity, schools in communities with low vaccination coverage will be prioritized.

- **When can onsite screening testing take place?**

- Onsite screening must take place prior to June 30, 2021.

- **What is the turnaround time for test results?**

- Turnaround time for results is less than 24 hours.

- **How can districts request screening testing resources?**

- Please complete the Excel request form (distributed to Superintendents via email) and return it to Kristin Gerard (Kristin.Gerard@ct.gov) by Tuesday, May 18, 2021.

- **How will districts coordinate with the testing partner(s)?**

- School districts should include contact information for a designated ELC program coordinator in the request form. DPH will connect the ELC program coordinator with the testing partner(s) for further coordination.

- **If my district completed DPH/SDE's April survey regarding screening plans, do I still need to complete the request form?**

- Yes, those districts who completed the survey should complete the request form by May 18, 2021, to request onsite resources.