



Covid-19 Schools Update

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Guidance for 2022-2023 School Year

- **DHEC Covid-19 Schools website has been updated**
- **Schools & Daycare guidance has aligned for both DHEC and CDC**
- **We are referring schools and daycares to CDC guidance for normal operations**
 - **CDC guidance includes options such as:**
 - Quarantine
 - Test to Stay (TTS)
 - Masking based on community level
 - Diagnostic Testing
 - Screening Testing based on community level, etc.
 - **DHEC strongly recommends that school administrations review guidance with their legal team to make decisions for their school or district.**



Guidance for 2022-2023 School Year

- **Exclusion List**
 - **Close contact quarantine has been removed from the exclusion list**
- **Outbreak Guidance**
 - **School-wide parameters (such as 10% absent due to Covid) removed**
 - **Last year those that were “fully vaccinated” were exempt from quarantine**
 - **This year, according to Outbreak Guidance, those that are “up to date” on vaccinations (including boosters) are exempt from quarantine**
 - **Close contact definition in Outbreak Guidance remains different from the CDC definition. Students (but not adults) that were wearing a mask within 3-6 feet of an infectious person are not defined as a close contact.**
- **Outside of the Exclusion List and Outbreak Guidance DHEC does not plan to require additional specific procedures or protocols, but strongly encourages schools to utilize CDC guidance.**



Covid-19 Reporting

- **We have no plans to collect COVID-19 information from schools in the upcoming school year.**
- **No school-reported cases or quarantine dashboard, etc.**
- **These pages will be archived**



Covid-19 Vendor Testing

- **Public School Districts and Charter Schools**
 - **Current COVID Testing Vendor contracts end July 31, 2022**
 - **Solicitation is in process; Testing Vendors may be available again by October 2023 or later**
 - **When available, turnkey Vendors will be performing rapid antigen test only (no PCR) and distributing OTC at-home kits**



Covid-19 POC Testing

- **BinaxNOW point of care (POC) tests available for public schools with a POC program in place-order link sent by COVID19SCschools@dhec.sc.gov**
- **POC Testing Requirements Include:**
 - **CLIA Waiver**
 - **Infectious Waste Disposal**
 - **Consultation with school legal team regarding liability, etc.**
 - **SCIONx registration for positive result reporting to DHEC as required**
 - **Staff training**
 - **Dr. Traxler signs standing orders for school-based covid testing, [link](#) to the updated version for this school year (signed 7.20.22) is in chat.**
- **Grant agreement is available for charter schools and districts to be reimbursed for POC tests administered to staff and students**



Covid-19 At-Home Tests

- **At-home tests are a great resource during outbreak**
- **Public School Districts and Charter Schools**
 - **At-Home Over the Counter (OTC) iHealth COVID-19 Antigen Rapid tests are available, order link has been sent out to superintendents and nurses**
 - **We have plenty in stock that expire in January**
 - **We plan to buy more tests when these tests expire**
- **Private Schools**
 - **DHEC received 768 at-home test kits directly from the CDC that can be distributed to private schools by request**

Questions?

