

Appendix F: FAQs for the School Community

How will the sample be collected?

To collect the specimen, the participant will insert a soft swab about ½ an inch inside the nose and slowly rotate the swab at least 5 times for a total of 15 seconds and then repeat the same steps on the second nostril.

What is self-swabbing?

Self-swabbing means you collect the sample yourself. A study done at UCSF found that even young children could self-swab their own noses without difficulty. ([Cooch et al, mdRxiv 2020](#))

What will the test feel like for my child?

Most participants describe a ticklish sensation or feeling the need to sneeze.

Why was I (or my child) tested?

You (or your child) was tested as part of routine screening at school to detect cases of COVID-19 to help avoid spread of the virus. This screening program does not replace the other important safety measures that help keep the school community safe, such as mask-wearing, social distancing, frequent handwashing and increasing ventilation.

What if I or my child refuses to self-swab?

Your school will inform you what alternatives there are for children who refuse or who are unable to self-swab.

What does it mean if a staff or student has a positive test result?

If the person currently has any symptoms of COVID-19 that began less than 7 days ago and test positive using BinaxNOW, then is the person has confirmed COVID-19 and they should isolate per CDC guidelines and get a confirmatory PCR test within 24 hours. If the person does not have any symptoms, it is highly likely that they have COVID-19 and should isolate per CDC guidelines. Because antigen tests are slightly less specific than PCR tests, there is a small chance that the test was falsely positive. For that reason, a PCR test should be obtained within 24 hours to confirm the result. If the confirmatory PCR test within 24 hours was negative and the person still does not have symptoms, the antigen test was falsely positive, and isolation can be ended. The participant or the parent/guardians of a minor will be notified if there is a positive test. Please also inform your primary care doctor and let them know about your/your child's test results. The school and the department of public health will also be notified.

What does it mean to have a negative test result?

A negative test means a person most likely does not have the virus that causes COVID-19, unless they have symptoms of COVID 19. If they have symptoms of COVID 19 and test negative, then a confirmatory PCR test should be performed.

It is possible, though unlikely, for this test to give a negative result that is incorrect (a false negative) in some people with COVID-19. This means a person could still possibly have COVID-19 even though the test results are negative. This is why individuals who test negative must still observe safety measures including mask wearing, physical distancing and handwashing and the test will be repeated on a regular basis.

How does the Abbot BinaxNOW test compare to other types of tests?

The Abbot BinaxNOW test is a rapid antigen test. It works by identifying SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19 disease in 15-30 minutes. This test is different from a PCR test. A PCR test is a high complexity test and needs to be run in a specialized laboratory and results are not available for 24-48 hours. A PCR test, like an antigen test, identifies an active infection with SARS-CoV-2. It is also different from an antibody test, which is a blood test that checks whether or not you have had a SARS-CoV-2 infection in the past.

What does self-isolate mean?

People who are in isolation should stay home until it's safe for them to be around others. In the home, anyone sick or infected should separate themselves from others by staying in a specific "sick room" or area and using a separate bathroom. Don't share personal household items, like cups, towels, and utensils. Members of the household should wear masks when around other people, if possible. Isolation lasts for at least 10 days from the positive test unless otherwise instructed by your primary care doctor or public health department. (More information from the CDC on [self-isolation](#) and [caring for others with COVID-19](#))

If I get the COVID-19 vaccine, will I test positive?

No, getting the COVID-19 vaccine will not affect the result of the antigen test.

Is this test FDA approved?

The FDA has authorized this test for use under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for testing of symptomatic patients. The FDA states: "If highly sensitive tests are not feasible, or if turnaround times are prolonged, health care providers may consider use of less sensitive point-of-care tests, even if they are not specifically authorized for this indication (commonly referred to as 'off-label'). If less sensitive tests, such as some rapid point-of-care tests, are used, health care providers should be aware of the performance of the tests and may want to consider different testing approaches, such as serial testing." (<https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-covid-19-and-medical-devices/covid-19-test-uses-faqs-testing-sars-cov-2>)

What is the sensitivity and specificity of this test?

Positive agreement of the BinaxNOW compared a PCR assay was "99/117, 84.6% (95% CI: 76.8% - 90.6%)." Negative agreement of the BinaxNOW compared to a PCR assay was "338/343, 98.5% (95% CI: 96.6% - 99.5%)." For more information about the sensitivity and specificity of the test, please see the Abbott Instructions for Use for the COVID-19 Ag Card Rev. 2 2020/12 (<https://www.fda.gov/media/141569/download>).

If my child is sick, can I send him/her to school so he/she can be tested?

No, please keep your child at home and seek testing at a local COVID-19 testing center. Please seek care with your child's primary care provider.

Does a deviated septum affect the test?

No, a deviated septum does not affect the test.

How long after testing positive for COVID-19 should someone wait before being retested?

Follow CDC guidelines as when retesting can occur following a previous positive test.