

SUNRISE MIDDLE SCHOOL

COVID TESTING PLAN

Background

This document explains **Sunrise Middle's testing strategies** for the 2022-2023 school year. It is intended to support planning processes for safe in-person learning, as disease management is an essential priority to maintain student well-being and development.

Testing Framework:

Testing for COVID-19 remains an essential tool to decrease transmission, keep students and staff safe, and keep schools open for in-person instruction while mitigating the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please refer to the [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K–12 Schools to Support Safe In-Person Learning, 2022–2023 School Year](#) for more specific information on when and who to test in a school setting. This information is being incorporated into this framework by reference.

The following are recommended practices for California districts, schools, and county offices of education, and will be followed by Sunrise:

- **Identify** a COVID Testing Point of Contact to facilitate communication and coordination with the CA Testing Task Force along with other relevant agencies or organizations that oversee school operations.
- **Review** and reference current testing recommendations provided in the [CDPH K-12 School COVID Guidance](#) and any additional recommendations or requirements provided by the Local Health Jurisdiction.
- **Maintain** situational awareness of the [testing resources and programs offered by the CA Testing Task Force](#) and monitor availability of pre-

positioned testing resources housed with a County Office of Education or Local Health Jurisdiction for rapid distribution to schools.

- **Monitor** the [CDC's COVID Community Data Tracker](#) as a method of identifying when to increase or reestablish school testing operations.
- **Communicate** any questions, concerns, or additional operational testing resources/needs to the CA Testing Task Force at schooltesting@cdph.ca.gov or to **David Putney with the Santa Clara County Office of Education.**

The following list describes operational considerations for COVID-19 testing for K-12 schools including Sunrise:

- California is currently offering [direct ordering](#) of COVID-19 over-the-counter (OTC) tests to schools. Schools may use OTC tests to supplant on-site testing in many situations. Such efforts should be paired with [educational materials](#) to facilitate proper OTC use, particularly in communities with limited English proficiency and/or lower health literacy. **Sunrise Middle has decided to conduct its testing in the classroom, when testing entire groups of students, for example, after vacations, or in cases where there is high incidence in our community. We test our students in the back office meeting room when testing a single student or a small group of students who display symptoms or who have been exposed.**
- California also offers COVID-19 OTC tests to all county offices of education (COEs) for use by public and private school students and staff for return from various prolonged school holiday break testing, such as summer and winter breaks. California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has communicated with COEs about a 2022-2023 Winter Break distribution. **Sunrise has obtained these tests for use with its students.**
- CDPH recommends that antigen tests be considered the primary option for detecting COVID-19 in schools, rather than PCR tests. Both the professional, on-site antigen tests as well as the OTC at-home antigen tests have been effective in identifying persons who have infectious levels of all known variants of SARS-CoV-2. PCR tests are highly sensitive, but their utility is greatest as a confirmatory test in appropriate situations and/or in clinical settings. **Therefore, Sunrise continues to use antigen tests when testing its students and PCR tests for weekly testing of all staff members.**

- CDPH will continue to support professional on-site antigen testing programs in the 2022-2023 school year. However, the volume of anticipated on-site testing is likely to decrease with the increased availability and ease of OTC tests. We anticipate the workload for on-site testing to substantially decrease for the 2022-2023 school year as OTC testing will often meet testing needs. Thus, state support for school-based testing staff (via End-to-End vendors) will be reduced. **Sunrise staff will conduct the school's testing program and bring in professionals only for the weekly testing of the staff members.**

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If used, PCR or other molecular testing may be considered in limited situations in the school setting:

- People with symptoms who may have a negative initial antigen test AND are at high risk for hospitalization or death from COVID-19 benefit from [early treatment](#). They may consider PCR (or other molecular) test and/or repeat an antigen test (at-home tests are acceptable) in 24 hours if the PCR result has not returned ([Updated Testing Guidance](#)). Individuals may consider repeat antigen testing every 24-48 hours until a positive test is returned or until symptoms improve.
- When a participant has ambiguous or invalid antigen test results, even on a repeat test, schools can consider repeating an antigen test in 24-48 hours, or PCR testing as an alternative. **Sunrise will follow this guidance and ask that ill students stay home until better, regardless of antigen test results.**

These updates and anticipated changes are based on current scientific knowledge and anticipated trends. The framework is subject to change. As noted in the [SMARTER plan](#), COVID-19 trends can shift rapidly and California's response to conditions in schools must remain nimble, adaptive, and responsive to dynamic challenges to keep students and staff safe.