Assisting Childhood Education through Increased Testing

Statement of Problem

Please Note: If the expiration date on the box has passed, check to see if those tests' expiration dates have been extended.

POC Tests: [BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card and NAVICA App Set-Up and Training | Abbott Point of Care (globalpointofcare.abbott)](#)

OTC/Self Tests: [At-Home OTC COVID-19 Diagnostic Tests | FDA](#)

Project Origins

Early on, COVID-19 made it difficult to keep kids in school for safe, in-person learning. Virtual platforms helped kids continue to learn when schools closed down. But as we saw, there is no substitute for schools given everything they provide when they're open. Besides education, schools offer safety, nutrition, and a chance to socialize. Schools are at the heart of our communities.

At the beginning of 2021 CHOP launched Project: ACE-IT. We worked with local health departments and education leaders across the region. Our shared goal: To reduce the risk of in-school COVID-19 transmission through testing.

By now, most schools are back to in-person learning. And we know that schools are not usually where COVID-19 spreads. But we want students and staff to feel safe in school when COVID-19 cases start to rise in their communities.

Schools can use many layers of protection to make sure everyone feels safe. This includes offering rapid testing during times when COVID-19 is on the rise.

Description

Goals

- Keep schools open for in-person learning during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Build confidence that safe, in-school learning is possible during COVID-19 surges

Roles

- Offer training on the administration of COVID-19 point of care tests and reporting of results

Strategy: A Public Health Approach

- Project: ACE-IT participants have used rapid tests for:

- Symptomatic testing of people who develop symptoms during the school day
  - Testing out of quarantine to shortening days out of school and preserve classroom time
  - Testing asymptomatic people after exposure while allowing them to stay in school
  - Assurance testing where groups of asymptomatic people are repeatedly tested in defined intervals
  - Testing before big events like proms, graduations, or performances

Please reach out to your local health department to discuss the use of tests for your organization.

Accomplishments

The ACE-IT Team has:

- Distributed over 1 million rapid tests from the U.S. government to interested schools
- Offered training on how to use the tests and report their result
- Provided support to schools as they created their testing protocols.
- Raised confidence that safe, in-person learning is possible during COVID.

Next Steps

A new website is coming! Stay tuned for more details.

Suggested Citation

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Related Tools & Publications

- COVID-19 Outlook: At the Height of the Pandemic, A Race Against Time
  Blog Post
  Jan 13, 2021

- COVID-19 Outlook: Looking Ahead as a New Administration Takes the Helm
  Blog Post
  Jan 20, 2021

- COVID-19 Outlook: Preparing for Spring
  Blog Post
  Jan 27, 2021

- COVID-19 Outlook: Regaining Our Footing with Continued Optimism
  Blog Post
  Feb 10, 2021

- COVID-19 Outlook: Spring Planning for In-person Schooling Can Continue
  Blog Post
  Feb 17, 2021

- Growing Opportunities for COVID-19 Testing Programs in U.S. Schools
  Blog Post
  Mar 16, 2021

- COVID-19 Outlook: Stepping Up Safety During a Period of Uncertainty
  Blog Post
  Mar 17, 2021

- COVID-19 Outlook: Navigating School Reopenings During a Period of Sustained Community Transmission
  Blog Post
  Mar 24, 2021

- COVID-19 Outlook: Preparing for Recovery, Even as U.S. Approaches Peak Seasonal Transmission
  Blog Post
  Dec 09, 2021

- COVID-19 Outlook: Holiday Peaks Begin to Subside
  Blog Post

Jan 13, 2022

- [COVID-19 Outlook: Tackling Unresolved Questions about Children as Recovery Continues](#)
  Blog Post
  Mar 22, 2022

- [COVID-19 Outlook: Forging Forward from the Pandemic](#)
  Blog Post
  Apr 22, 2022

- [COVID-19 Outlook: Schools Update Health and Safety Plans For the New Academic Year](#)
  Blog Post
  Aug 04, 2022

- [From Testing to Vaccines to Equity: Navigating the Remainder of the COVID-19 School Year](#)
  Webinars
  Jan 2021

- [On the Value of COVID-19 Testing for Children Beyond the Spring of 2021](#)
  Article
  Apr 2021

- [SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Public School District Employees Following a District-Wide Vaccination Program — Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, March 21–April 23, 2021](#)
  Article
  Jul 2021

- [Guidance for Updated COVID-19 School Mitigation Plans for Academic Year 2022-23](#)
  Tools and Memos
  Aug 2022

Related Projects

[Responding to COVID-19](#)
[Population Health Sciences](#)