



Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

What is screening testing?

Screening testing, also called surveillance testing, describes testing at regular intervals to monitor for positive cases of COVID-19. Screening testing of essential school staff would begin once schools have reopened for in-class instruction. Screening testing is a monitoring tool and is different from testing that may take place if a staff member or student is exposed to a positive COVID-19 individual.

Why is it important for reopening of schools?

Screening testing provides an important measure of security against transmission of COVID-19 by identifying potentially asymptomatic individuals. Asymptomatic individuals who test positive will be informed of their status and quarantined to avoid widespread exposure.

What does the state or county require in terms of testing?

Neither the California Public Health Department nor the Sonoma County Public Health Department requires testing of staff for a return to in-class instruction. Both strongly recommend testing.

Which districts or schools will participate in this testing program?

The county's 40 TK-12 public school districts, run by the Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE) can participate. Public LEAs are able to piggyback off of the SCOE contract.

What is Curative?

Curative, Inc. is a California-based company which has operational labs in Los Angeles, Washington, D.C. and Austin, Texas. Curative began testing for COVID-19 with an FDA-EUA authorized oral fluid test in March 2020 and is currently processing more than 70,000 samples per day.

What kind of test will staff be taking?

The test is saliva-based and self-administered, utilizing a swab that is moved around the inside of the mouth for 20 seconds before being placed in a tube.

How often will they be taking it?

The frequency of testing will be up to the individual school or district. The State of California recommends testing staff every two months. For example, all staff being tested over 2 months, where 25% of staff are tested every 2 weeks, or 50% every month to rotate which staff members are tested over time.

Who pays for the tests?

The Department of Managed Health Care has filed an emergency regulation to require health plans to pay for COVID-19 testing for all essential workers, including school staff. Curative will bill each employees' insurance provider directly. If an employee is without insurance, Curative will bill the Federal CARES Act (which sunsets Dec 31, 2020).

How much do the tests cost?

The test varies in cost because it is based on each insurance carrier's COVID-19 testing reimbursement rate. On average, the test is approximately \$120.

How will testing be administered?

Testing kits will be provided to participating schools and districts. Designated staff will be trained by Curative Labs to serve as “proctors” for the test.

How quickly will staff receive results?

Electronic results will be delivered via email and text within 48 hours of the lab receiving the test kit.

What is the accuracy rate of the tests?

Curative indicates that its tests have an accuracy rate of approximately 90 percent.

How will privacy be protected?

Curative is committed to protecting patient privacy and has implemented security and privacy programs overseen by dedicated HIPAA Security and Privacy Officers. Curative’s Privacy Policy describes what information Curative gathers from patients, how it is used and how it is protected. School districts are also required to meet Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (HIPAA) standards. HIPPA establishes federal standards to prevent fraud, insurance abuse and electronic information processing protections.

Will students be tested?

Curative Labs does have options for student testing. However, student screening testing is recommended but not required by the state and county public health departments and is something the Sonoma County Office of Education will continue to research for viable options. It is likely that student testing will be offered on a voluntary basis. We expect there will be more information to come on this issue.

Can I require staff to be tested for COVID-19?

The Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) released a FAQ regarding COVID-19 in the workplace. According to DFEH, employers may require employees to submit to COVID19 viral testing (not antibody testing) before permitting employees to enter the workplace. Our recommendation is to review the DFEH FAQ and consult with legal counsel for clarification.

How do I secure a contract with Curative?

Public LEAs are able to piggyback off of the SCOE contract.

- **What is Piggybacking:** Piggybacking is when a public agency uses an existing public contract as a template to form their own contract directly with the vendor to purchase on the same or similar terms. Your agency does not become a signatory to, or participate in, the original contract but instead negotiates a new contract with the vendor based on the initial public entity’s contract.
- **Benefits of Piggybacking:** You may be able to save time and resources by leveraging Sonoma County’s successful competitive bidding process. And our volume pricing and county policies for environmentally preferable purchasing and local procurement mean you may get best value while supporting a local green economy.
- **How to Piggyback:** Each agency must evaluate specific contract documents to determine if the competitive process and contract awarded allows piggybacking and meets your agency’s rules and regulations for contracting. If you decide to piggyback, follow your agency’s procedures to initiate negotiations with the vendor to form a separate contract that is based on Sonoma County’s contract specifications.

What are the different factors that I will need to consider to ramp up a district-wide testing program?

- Human Resources facilitator of the program rollout

- Curative Administrator: This employee will be trained to use the Curative online platform and will have access to sensitive information such as personal information for each staff member and results of the COVID test. This employee will also be trained on how to check in and observe the staff members self-administering the test. Curative will provide training for this role.
- Curative Check In: This employee will use the Curative online platform to individually check in and observe staff members self-administering the COVID test. This employee will not have access to the personal information and COVID test results on the online platform. Curative will provide training for this role.
- Outdoor space for employees to self administer the test.
- Testing appointment schedule
- Protections for HIPPA documents that will be collected by employees
- Protocols for responding to positive test results (AB685)
- Notification requirements when a positive test result occurs

What steps do our district need to take to implement the program?

At least 4 days before you prepare to re-open and begin testing (HR)

- Submit to Curative information on how many staff are on each school site
- Submit to Curative “up to date” contact information for every employee including
 - Name
 - Email
 - Cell phone number
 - Insurance Provider

At least two days before implementation of testing:

- Employees will receive an on-boarding email from Curative that will provide a template for employees to log into the information portal
- Employees will be texted a code on their cell phone to allow them to log into the portal
- Employees will verify information, including identity and insurance provider
- Employees can expect an email link that lets them know two days in advance that they are scheduled for COVID test with testing details. The frequency of testing determined by the district can be built into the messaging.

What happens on testing day?

- Curative recommends more than one proctor at sites, depending on the number of employees being tested.
- Testing should be done in an open space outside of any school building to allow for coughing, which is part of the test protocol.
- Testing area should have internet access, so that barcodes can be scanned and recorded into laptop
- Employees will be provided tests to self administer in front of proctor and then return to proctor, who is available to provide clear instructions.

How soon will employees receive results?

Employees should expect to see results within 24-28 hours from when the tests are received by the lab.

How will employees be notified?

Information will be texted and emailed to employees via the information provided in the portal.

How does the employer find out the results?

If an employee signs the waiver, allowing the employer to receive results, the COVID-19 liaison will monitor the portal site to see if someone has tested positive and be prepared to engage in next steps in the event of a positive test. If an employee does not sign the waiver, and does not allow the employer to receive results, the employee will then be responsible for reporting their results to the employer. If a test is positive, Curative will, legally, report to Public Health.