

WHY SHOULD WE TEST FOR COVID-19 IN SCHOOLS?

- To reduce community spread and keep schools open.
- To help ensure equitable access to testing.
- To increase confidence in schools as a safe learning environment and assess whether school mitigation strategies are working.



TYPES OF COVID-19 TESTING

SCREENING TESTING TO PREVENT SCHOOL OUTBREAKS

To identify infections in people without symptoms. Should be done at least once per week with rapid reporting of results, or before engaging in high risk activities.

DIAGNOSTIC TESTING TO IDENTIFY CURRENT INFECTIONS

For people who have symptoms or who are close contacts of those infected.

SURVEILLANCE TESTING TO KEEP TRACK OF COVID-19 IN THE SCHOOL

Helps determine the level of infection in school populations and is helpful in assessing how well mitigation practices are working.

SCREENING TESTING IS RECOMMENDED FOR

- Students who have not been fully vaccinated when community transmission is at moderate or higher levels.
- Teachers and staff who have not been fully vaccinated regardless of community transmission level.
- Schools unable to consistently implement multiple layered mitigation measures.
- All participants, attendees and staff who are not fully vaccinated prior to engaging in high risk athletics, competitions, or extracurricular events.
- For higher risk activities, consider testing those who are not fully vaccinated more than once a week.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON COVID-19 SCHOOL GUIDANCE, VISIT
<https://health.hawaii.gov/coronavirusdisease2019/resources/school-guidance/>