

SAU 19 Guide to COVID-19 Antigen Testing Performed at Home

The following is an outline of the requirements for the use of home Antigen COVID-19 test, please note antigen tests are also known as rapid tests.

- Antigen testing for COVID-19 will only help to determine your student's COVID-19 status. **This is not a substitute for a comprehensive medical evaluation.** If your student's symptoms change, worsen, or fail to improve, call your student's health care provider.
- Only FDA approved antigen tests will be accepted, a list of FDA approved tests can be found here: <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-emergency-use-authorizations-medical-devices/in-vitro-diagnostics-euas-antigen-diagnostic-tests-sars-cov-2#Individual%20EUAs>
- Antigen tests can be purchased without a prescription and are appropriate for use in persons aged 2 and older who are **exhibiting symptoms consistent with COVID-19**. Those symptoms include: Headache, runny nose, cough, fever, sore throat, fatigue, diarrhea, nausea or vomiting, muscle or body aches, shortness of breath, and loss of taste or smell.
- When performing a rapid antigen test at home, follow manufacturer instructions for that specific test, if any step is not followed correctly, discard the test and perform another.
- Antigen testing **MUST** be performed within **5 days** of the onset of symptoms. If your student's symptoms started more than 5 days ago **or** your student is asymptomatic, antigen testing is not appropriate and will not be accepted by your school. Antigen testing is also not acceptable for post exposure asymptomatic COVID-19 testing.
- Your student's name and the date the test was performed must be written on the test card and/ or the test strip (initials will suffice if space is an issue).
- Photographs of the test results with your student's identifying information written on the test must be sent to your student's school nurse **prior to the student's return to school**. Please also note the date of symptom onset when sending results to your school nurse.
- If you have multiple symptomatic students in the home, each student must be given their own individual test with identifying information clearly written on each test.
- You must report **both positive and negative** COVID-19 antigen test results to the school nurse.
- The school nurse has the authority for approval of all COVID-19 antigen tests performed at home. Please note test results may not be immediately accepted. The school nurse may follow up to determine if the test was performed with the standards necessary to ensure accuracy. After follow up the school nurse will either accept results, provide additional instruction, and/ or recommend that you consult with your student's medical provider before the student returns to school.

Contact your student's school nurse for further guidance or to submit documentation of a home antigen test.

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