

HOME TEST KITS



TESTING GUIDELINES

Beginning January 3, Catholic schools will distribute free, take-home COVID-19 rapid test kits to be used by any student or staff who exhibits COVID-like symptoms or have been in a classroom where a positive case has been identified.

If you need to be tested for COVID-19 and cannot be tested by a health care provider, consider at-home testing. Note: At-home test results may not be accepted for some purposes.

If your child was exposed to COVID-19 at school as a close contact, you will receive directions on when to use the test.

If your child tests positive on either one of the home tests, please contact your child's school immediately to inform them and for further guidance.

Any student who tests positive on a take-home test should immediately report it to the school, share a photo of the test, and begin isolating.

As a reminder, all students, staff, and visitors must continue to pass the daily health screener in order to enter school buildings and shall remain home if waiting for the results of a COVID test.



AT-HOME TESTING

Tips for Performing an At-Home Test

- Read the manufacturer's instructions carefully and view any online instructional videos provided by the manufacturer before beginning the test.
- Closely follow the manufacturer's instructions. If specimens are not collected, handled, or stored exactly as written in the instructions, your test result may not be correct.
- Before and after testing, wash your hands with soap and water and disinfect the table or other surface where you are performing the test.
- Do not open test kits until you are ready to start. Check the expiration date. Do not use expired tests or test components that are damaged or discolored.
- Read the test result within the amount of time written in the manufacturer's instructions. A result read before or after the stated timeframe may not be correct.
- Do not reuse test kits or components.

Interpreting Test Results

At-home testing may be less accurate than tests performed by a health care provider. For this reason, there are times when you should follow up with your provider and arrange for another COVID-19 test to confirm your at-home test result (a confirmatory test, such as a molecular PCR Test).

For example: If you have any COVID symptoms after being in close contact and test negative on an at-home test, it is critical that you confirm the negative at-home test with a PCR test.



COVID-19 TESTING SITES

The New York State Department of Health and local county health departments continue to open new testing sites throughout New York state and the Archdiocese of New York. We strongly encourage that all students get tested for COVID-19, through a PCR, lab-based rapid test, or a home test kit on a continuous basis, regardless of vaccination status.

[For a list of New York City testing sites, including sites with additional at-home rapid tests, call 212-COVID19, visit \[nyc.gov/covidtest\]\(https://nyc.gov/covidtest\), text "COVID TEST" to 855-48, or call 311 to find a nearby testing site.](#)

[For a list of sites outside New York City, visit \[coronavirus.health.ny.gov/find-test-site-near-you\]\(https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/find-test-site-near-you\).](#)

Additionally, many pharmacies and doctors' offices are offering COVID-19 testing. Please check with your pediatrician's office or local pharmacy to see if you can schedule a test.



For updates relating to COVID-19 for Catholic schools, visit catholicschoolsnyc.org/covid-19/.