



Novato Unified School District COVID-19 Testing Plan August 25, 2023

This COVID-19 Testing Plan is established and updated as needed to meet requirements of [SB 1479](#), and is posted at www.nusd.org.

The Novato Unified School District (NUSD) follows guidance from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and Marin County Public Health around COVID-19 testing. Rapid Antigen Testing remains a key mitigation strategy to detect and curb transmission of COVID-19 in school settings. Keeping students and staff safe and in school remains the top priority.

NUSD is a unified school district in Novato, California, with 13 schools. All students and staff are provided free Rapid Antigen Over the Counter (OTC) tests through the support and collaboration of the California Department of Public Health's K-12 Schools Team and Testing Task Force and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. All families of students and staff are encouraged to maintain at least 2 boxes of tests (4 tests) at home at all times and request refills through their school as needed.

COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test Contacts:

Primary Testing Point of Contact: Leslie Benjamin, Director, Communications & Community Engagement

Secondary Testing Point of Contact: Francesca Whitcomb, Executive Director Human Resources

Partner: Marin County Office of Education, Marin HHS, Public Health Schools and Child Care Team

Education: Staff and students are provided testing guidance and expectations by school site administrators, based on ongoing and updated guidance from the CDPH and Marin Public Health. NUSD has a district-wide COVID Coordinator and each school site has two Public Health Liaisons who attend meetings with the Marin Public Health Schools Team. Updates on all mitigation strategies including testing are discussed in these meetings.

Testing Expectation: Students and Staff should test ***when COVID-19 symptoms are present, following high-risk activities and/or as recommended by Public Health (i.e., outbreak and exposure testing)***. Marin Public Health provides updated COVID-19 testing information at <https://coronavirus.marinhhs.org/testing>.

Access: All students and families have access to test kits. Extra tests are sent home when additional testing is recommended by Public Health, such as for an outbreak on a school site. School staff should always maintain 2 boxes of tests at home for when testing is needed and can contact their supervisor or school office manager for refills.

Reporting and Monitoring: All staff, parents and guardians are required to notify office staff of positive test results. All schools will report outbreaks for both students and staff to Marin Public Health through the SPOT portal, which will then be communicated to the CDPH.