



COVID-19 Testing FAQ

Q: When will the program start?

A: StrongSchoolsNC COVID-19 Testing will likely begin the week of October 18th.

Q: Who can participate?

A: Only kindergarten-eighth grade students and staff may participate. Testing for PreK is not offered by MAKO at this time.

Q: Who will be administering the tests?

A: MAKO Medical healthcare professionals will be administering the weekly screening tests. If a child becomes symptomatic while at school a trained ICS staff member will administer the test.

Q: Can you sign up to do screening or diagnostic testing, or do you have to consent to both?

A: Consent is given for both screening and diagnostic testing. You must opt-in to both.

Q: Will they perform PCR or antigen tests for weekly screenings and diagnostic testing?

A: PCR tests are used for both weekly screening and diagnostic testing.

Q: Will staff contact parents prior to testing?

A: If a child is symptomatic while at school, we will still send them home and get verbal consent to perform a diagnostic PCR test, even though they are registered and consent has already been given.

We will **NOT** contact parents prior to weekly screening, as consent has already been given.

Q: Will our weekly screening be a pooled test or individual test?

A: A random group of six pre-registered students are scanned into a single pool and tested. Their samples are placed in a single test tube.

If a positive result is detected, all pooled individuals will be retested at school as soon as possible, likely the next day. No one from the pool will be excluded until the positive individual has been identified. *Please note that testing is voluntary and all screening testing is for asymptomatic individuals.*

The purpose of school-wide screening of asymptomatic students is to detect cases that may not have been otherwise identified.

This is the recommended process by MAKO and North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

Q: How will testing results be reported?

A: Results will be available to parents/guardians and ICS administration within 24 hours via email or text.

Q: If the screening pooled test is positive and the second test is negative, would you consider this a false positive for purposes of return to in-person learning, or require 10 days out?

A: If the result of a retest of a single individual is negative, that individual will not be excluded from in-person learning.