Accessing COVID-19 testing for return to school

The information presented here is current as of today's date unless otherwise noted. All data are provisional. For the latest information, reference links within the presentation or visit **www.erie.gov/covid19**
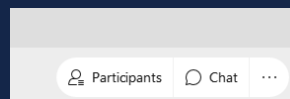
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Introduction & Housekeeping

▸ Welcome to WebEx!

▸ During Q&A period, please use the chat feature – on computer screens, bottom right of screen

     Participants   Chat   ···

▸ Questions after the event? Send to schools@erie.gov

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Unhelpful phrases

- "Your doctor can get you test results faster than other places."
- "Call your doctor **and** go get a test."
- "You need a doctor's note **and** negative test to return."
- "You're not feeling well. Go home and if you feel better later, you can just come back."

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Types of COVID-19 Testing

- Routine testing for school staff who cannot provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination
- Screening (surveillance) testing
- Proximate testing
- Diagnostic testing

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COVID-19 testing requirements for return to school

▸ Students and staff with COVID-19 symptoms can return to school one of three ways*:
  ▸ Provide a negative NAAT diagnostic test
  ▸ Provide a doctor's note with an alternative diagnosis
  ▸ Stay out of school for 10 days since symptom onset

*Please carefully review NYSDOH guidance for details.

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NAAT – Nucleic Acid Amplification Test

▸ PCR or RT-PCR tests: a type of NAAT

▸ Can be rapid (results on site), but more commonly sent out to a clinical lab for testing

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Antigen Tests

▸ Less sensitive than NAAT tests
  ▸ Sensitivity: a test's ability to designate an individual with disease as positive.
▸ Less specific than NAAT tests
  ▸ Specificity: a test's ability to designate an individual who does not have a disease as negative
▸ "The practice of accepting a negative antigen test result in a symptomatic person as a conclusive indication of the absence of COVID-19 infection is inconsistent with NYSDOH and CDC guidance." – *from NYS school guidance*
▸ In Erie County, the accepted standard of care is to obtain a COVID-19 NAAT test to assess for COVID-19 illness for pre-K to 12 students and staff for return to school.

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Where to find NAAT tests

▸ The following sites are either free or accepting health insurance.

▸ If a child does not have health insurance, call toll-free (800) 698-4KIDS [(800) 698-4543), for NYS Child Health Plus and Children's Medicaid.

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Erie County Department of Health

- Call 716-858-2929 to schedule an appointment
- Appointments required
- All testing is provided free of charge
- Available to Erie County residents only
- No insurance information is requested or required
- Drive up testing
- PCR testing resulted in 1-3 business days
- Results reported by phone to patient; fax to school medical office; or pick up by patient at Erie County Rath Building

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Rite Aid – 34 sites in Erie County

- Schedule an appointment at https://www.riteaid.com/pharmacy/services/covid-19-testing
- All testing is provided free of charge
  - No insurance information is requested at registration
  - Rite Aid will automatically pull from federal funding – free for patient
- Sample collection is done at drive-thru
- PCR testing resulted in 3-5 days
- Results reported to patient via email address that was provided at time of registration

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Walgreens – 20 sites in Erie County – walgreens.com

▸ All testing is provided free of charge
  ▸ Insurance information is requested at time of registration
    ▸ **If you provide insurance information**, Walgreens will first seek to bill your insurance for reimbursement. If it is denied, **you will not see a bill**. Walgreens automatically pull from federal funding – free for patient
    ▸ **If you do not provide your insurance information**, **you will not see a bill**. Walgreens will automatically pull from funding via Health and Human Services (HHS).

▸ Sample collection is done at drive-thru

▸ PCR testing resulted in 1-2 days

▸ Results reported to patient via email address that was provided at time of registration

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KSL Diagnostics – 2 locations in Erie County

▸ Go to https://gsign.me/eyo or scan the QR code to register

▸ **Insurance information must be provided as not to incur charges**
  ▸ If you do not provide insurance information, you will be responsible for the cost
  ▸ No insurance information is requested at time of registration
  ▸ Once you arrive at the location, you will be asked to provide insurance information. KSL Diagnostics will bill your insurance for reimbursement.

▸ Call your doctor and ask them to fax a script to your desired testing location (Williamsville or Buffalo)

▸ **A prescription for testing is preferred but not required; if you do not have a prescription, testing is still available**

▸ No appointment is necessary

▸ Sample collection is done as drive-up

▸ PCR testing resulted same-day if collected before 1:00 pm

▸ Results reported to patient via email

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Medlab – 1 location in Erie County

▶ Go to https://medlabinc.com/schedule/ to schedule an appointment
▶ All testing is provided free of charge
   ▶ No insurance information is requested at time of registration
   ▶ Once you arrive at the location, you will be asked to provide insurance information. **If you provide insurance information**, Medlab, Inc. will first seek to bill your insurance for reimbursement. If it is denied for any reason, **you will not see a bill**. Medlab, Inc. will automatically pull from federal funding.
   ▶ **If you do not provide your insurance information**, **you will not see a bill**. Medlab, Inc. will automatically pull from funding via Health and Human Services (HHS).
▶ Sample collection is done as walk-up
▶ PCR testing resulted same-day if you are tested in the morning and next day if you are tested in the afternoon
▶ No prescription required

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▶ Results reported to patient via patient portal

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Urgent Cares – WellNow, Immediate Care, Pediatric Urgent Care

▶ It's important to contact your insurance carrier to learn about your coverage details before making an appointment at these facilities. While they accept insurances (check to see that yours is accepted), allowable reimbursements vary and copays may apply.
▶ Insurances are accepted and will be billed, any remaining balance will be billed to the patient
▶ Make an appointment online or walk-in
▶ PCR testing is provided but may require an office visit fee as well
▶ Test result times vary but can be same-day

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▶ Results reported to patient via phone call and patient portal

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Questions and Answers

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