
Louisiana Department of Health to fund K-12 COVID Testing in Louisiana Schools

School Year: Fall 2021 - Spring 2022

Join us in K-12 COVID-19 Testing

Created in partnership with LDOE and LDH, [financed by the CDC](#), LDH is offering schools **COVID-19 testing options** supported with [funding](#), resources, educational materials, testing teams and the LDH K-12 Team for the [2021 - 2022 school year](#).

Goal for this presentation today

- ★ Why is testing important for the 2021-2022 School Year?
- ★ What is the Louisiana Department of Health offering every *single school and school district* in the state?
- ★ What are the **THREE** options schools may choose from?
- ★ What are the resources, funding, incentives, and materials that LDH is offering schools
- ★ Who is eligible to participate?
- ★ What is the incentive program?
- ★ Timeline
- ★ How to sign up!

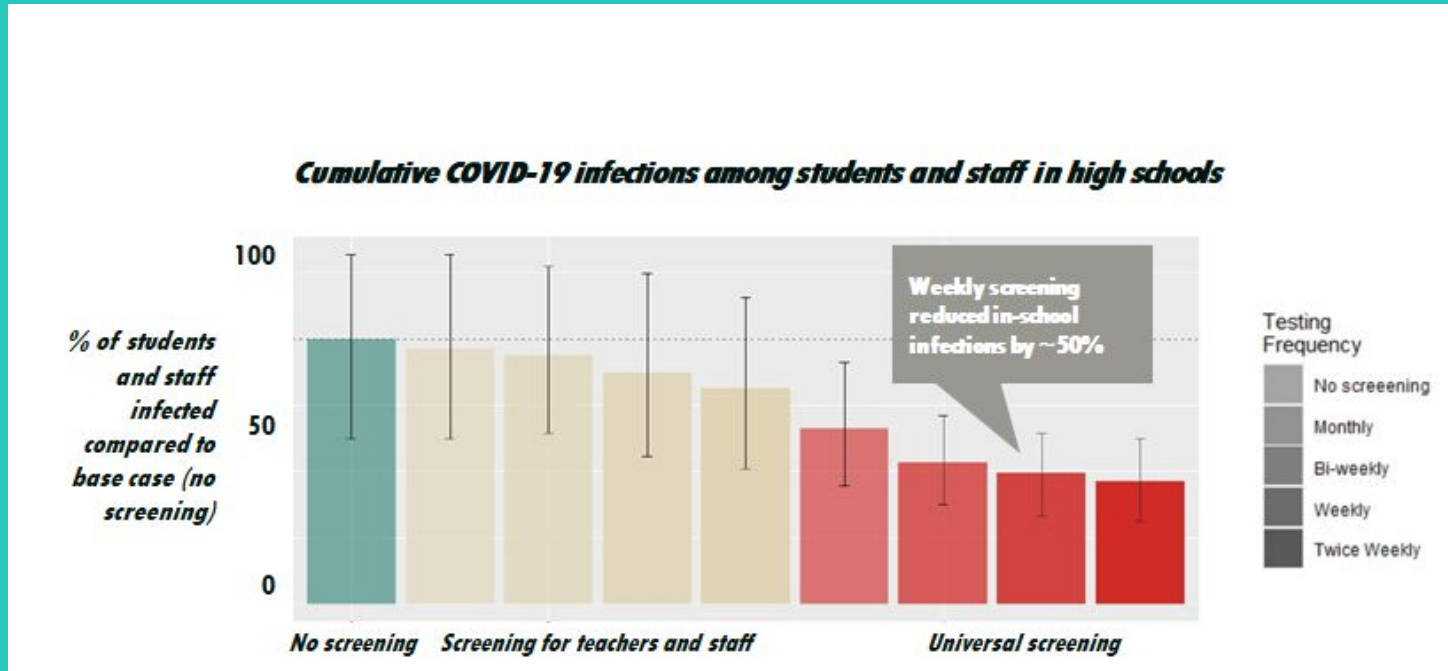
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How can we keep schools open and minimize spread?

Early DETECTION -> Containment
Routine COVID-19 Testing

Need for ongoing testing

Evidence from Mathematica, supported by The Rockefeller Foundation, found that **weekly testing** of all students, teachers and staff can **reduce in-school infections by an estimated 50%**

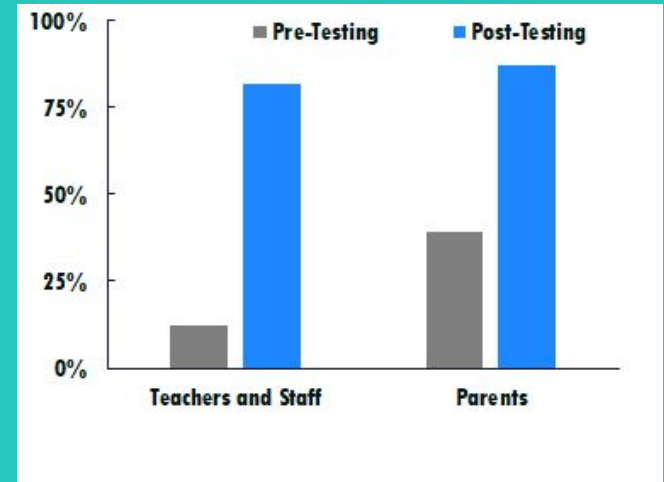


Need for ongoing testing

Surveys in public schools report that over 90% of parents, students, and staff support testing. And 70% more staff/teachers and 48% more parents report feeling confident in the safety of in-person learning when testing programs are in place.

Survey Results (% agree or strongly agree)	Parents	Students	Staff
Testing students, staff and teachers on a regular basis is important to ensure that school can remain open and the WIS community can be as safe as possible	91.8	95.1	92.6
Post-launch: I am open to being part of a pooled testing protocol once or twice a week, with an individual confirmatory test required if the pool is positive	90.3	93.4	98.8

Reported Confidence



**Under Age 12 children are
the last population to be
eligible for vaccination**

LDH Offers:

FUNDING

- Stipends for School Districts - \$40k
- Stipends for Private, Public, Charter Schools
 - Option 1 - \$30k
 - Option 2 - \$14k

Materials

- PPE and Testing Materials
- Testing Team Services
- Easy-to-use parental registration
- Incentives for participants

Support

- LDH Regional COVID Coordinators
- Color Software
- Communications
- Testing and Technical support
- Trainings

School Districts and Schools can choose:

DIY Option 1:

LDH will fund a school-run covid testing program

Turn-Key Option 2:

LDH will fund a testing team to test weekly at the schools

Outbreak Option 3:

Schools can opt-out of weekly testing and can always call LDH in an emergency

Option 1: “The Do It Yourself”

School administered rapid testing

LDH provides the Point-of-Care PCR Testing

- All materials and training provided by LDH to **School COVID-19 Testing Coordinator**: CUE test kits, the readers, technology necessary
- Specimen collected through a lower anterior nasal swab
- School staff uses Color to send registration and consent materials to parents
- School staff administers participant check-in, sample collection, testing, and recording results
- Results available in 15 - 20 minutes
- Results sent to guardians through text or email
- Goal is to test 20% of school community on a weekly basis
- LDH to provide \$30k in two installments for each school that participates

Option 2: “Turn-key”

Schools will work with LDH-provided testing teams who will provide all services

Lab-processed PCR Testing

- School will be paired with Testing Teams
- Testing teams will coordinate with **School COVID-19 Coordinator** to collect samples on a routine basis
- The sample will be collected using an oral swab or lower anterior nasal swab
- School staff uses Color to send registration and consent materials to parents
- Testing Team will administer participant check-in, sample collection, testing, and recording results
- Results available within 24 hours
- Goal is to test 20% of school community on a weekly basis
- LDH to provide \$14.5k in two installments for each school that participates

Option 3: “Outbreak Only”

Schools can opt-out of Routine Testing

This is a voluntary program

- School district or individual school can reach out to LDH in case of suspected outbreak
- LDH will provide a method for testing with a quick turnaround

Who is eligible to participate?

All school districts

All public, charter, private schools

All teachers, staff, students

Athletic teams & school events

What is the Incentive Program?

All participants will be eligible to participate in an incentive program
LDH will provide reloadable virtual payments *or* physical cards to participants.

The payments will occur once per month:

FIRST TEST: \$25

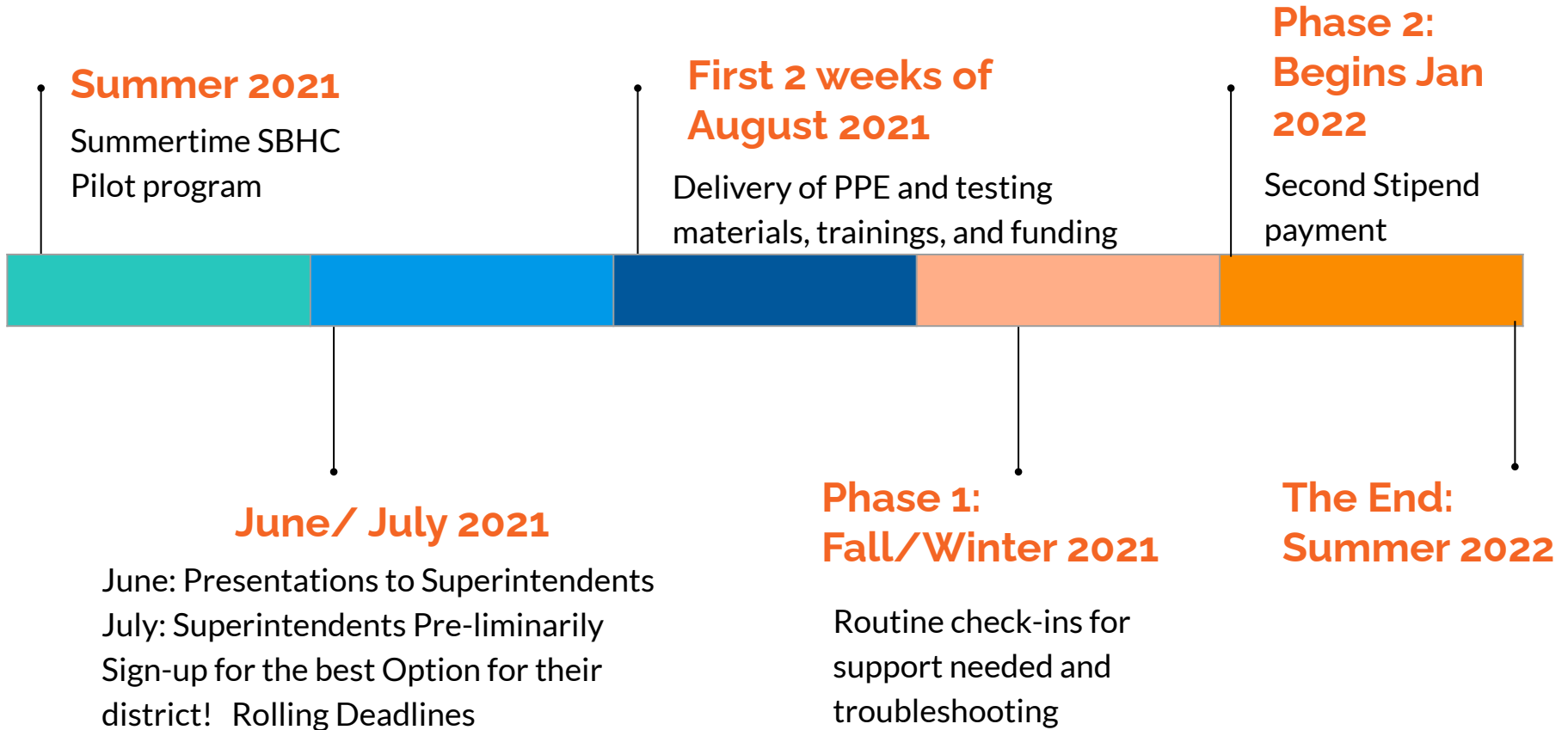
Weekly Test: \$10

For Students:

As a part of the initial consent form sent out through the Color platform to parents, there will be a separate consent to participate in the incentive program. Virtual payments can come through email.

For Staff and Teachers: Upon registration, there will be a consent form to participate in the incentive program.

TIMELINE



Sign-up!

SIGN UP NOW: www.tinyurl.com/k-12covidtestingla

Questions please email k-12covidtesting@la.gov or call 504 439 0124