

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS For Parents



## Prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our schools

#### 🕜 What is Test Together, Learn Together?

**Test Together, Learn Together** is a federally funded COVID-19 testing program for New Mexico's public and private schools. There is no cost to the district, school or student to participate.

#### Why is this program important?

Unfortunately, COVID-19 is still an issue in our communities. If we can identify students and staff who test positive and separate them from others, we can lower the risk that COVID-19 will spread. Your school is already doing a lot to keep kids healthy and safe. This is another way to support them. The goal is to keep students in the classroom to learn face-to-face and enjoy time and activities with their friends.

#### What can I, as a parent or guardian, do to help?

You can sign the form that gives the school permission to test your student for COVID-19. Your school will give you instructions on where to find it. Once you get the form, please sign it as soon as possible so your school can begin their testing program!

#### 🕜 How does it work?

Once you have signed the form, your student will be tested regularly throughout the school year. It will be quick and painless.

#### What happens if my student tests positive?

We will ask that your student stay at home until your school says it is safe to return.

## 🕜 ls the test safe?

Yes, it is fast, simple AND safe. Test results are back within 15 minutes to 48 hours, depending on the type of test. You will be told if your student has tested positive for COVID-19.





#### Who does the testing?

Schools were given choices on how they would like to do testing. You can check with your school administrators to learn about your school's testing plan.

#### Does the test hurt?

No, it is a simple swab just inside the nostril.

# Will my student's test results be shared with another party?

If your student's test results are positive, the results will be shared with you and a small group of school administrators. We are not testing or collecting any other information besides the COVID-19 result.

### What happens if I don't sign the permission slip?

If you don't sign the permission slip, your student will not be part of this testing program. This could mean there is higher risk that your student's school will be shut down and learning will move back to an online format.

#### What if my student has already been vaccinated?

Because it is possible that a vaccinated individual can transmit COVID-19, we still recommend you sign the form so your child can be tested ... just in case.

#### Do I have to pay anything?

This program is offered at no cost to you, your school or your school district.

# Where can I learn more? www.learntogethernm.com

The federal grant that enables the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) to provide this level of support is the 2019 Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Disease (ELC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The ELC grant - Reopening of Schools (NUSOCK000548-02-06) is part of a financial assistance award totaling \$63 million dollars for New Mexico schools and federal funds made available from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, PL. 117- 2. The NMDOH is distributing over eighty five percent of this award to support school access to COVID-19 testing providers and services, in addition to direct funding. The NMDOH and the New Mexico Public Education Department are partnering in this effort.