



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, staff 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 staff member, do to help?

You can sign a form that gives the school permission to test you for COVID-19. You can also explain to students' parents or guardians why testing is important and encourage them to sign the form.

How does it work?

Once you have signed the form, you'll be tested regularly throughout the school year.

What happens if I test positive?

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

Is 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. The school will let you know if you have tested positive for COVID-19.

What kind of test is it?

There are two options – a simple swab just inside the nostril, or spitting into a tube.

? Does the test hurt?

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

Who does the testing?

Schools were given choices on how they will do testing. Check with your school administrators to learn about your school's testing plan.

Will my test results be shared with another party?

If your test results are positive, those results will be shared with you and a small group coordinating the COVID-19 plan. We are not testing or collecting any other information besides the COVID-19 result.

What if I have already been vaccinated?

Because it is possible that a vaccinated individual can transmit COVID-19, we still recommend that you sign the form to be tested.

Po 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, P.L. 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.