



COVID-19 Testing Update from Superintendent, Kimberly McGrath Friday, September 24, 2021

Dear RUSD Community,

RUSD is working with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Marin County Public Health Department, and the Marin County Office of Education (MCOE) on COVID-19 testing options for our students and staff. There are the 4 current strategies we are researching, some we are pursuing, and one that is being implemented beginning next week:

- **Antigen Tests from MCOE** - these will be sent home for symptomatic staff or students, starting Monday. If someone on campus has COVID-19 symptoms and is sent home, an antigen test to be taken at home will be offered as well. [Here is the instructional video](#). Results should be sent to the school site and nurses and recorded on a [Google form](#) by the parent. We are hoping that this is a helpful support to staff and students as we know that antigen rapid tests are becoming difficult to find.
- **RUSD ordered 1500 antigen tests** - we are waiting to hear an arrival date. We are working on priority lists to determine how best to use these tests (if/when they do arrive) to support families and staff.
- **CDPH Pooling Testing** - RUSD has applied for “pooling” testing through the state health department. This method includes staff from the state that administers a PCR test for students that have a signed consent form during the school day, then follow-up antigen testing for any “pool” of tests that show a positive result.
- **State antigen tests** - we have looked into antigen tests that were available from the state. However, this did not seem like a good option because staffing was not supplied, the potentially affected person was staying on the school site to be tested by one of our staff members, and there were extensive reporting requirements. We have stopped pursuing this idea.

If you are interested in more detailed information, you can find it below:

1. **Antigen Tests from MCOE** - On Wednesday, we received about 40 antigen testing kits from the MCOE. These kits are being separated into single kits and distributed to school sites. These kits will be used for

students and staff that experience COVID-19 symptoms while on campus and need to go home and test. Tests will be sent home with a symptomatic student or staff member for the test to be conducted at home. The completed antigen test will need to have the tester's name and date of test. The result will be shown or emailed to the school in order to return. [Here is a link](#) to the instructional video. If a test is used, [this form](#) should be used to report the result. The county's ultimate goal is to have a test in the hands of every student.

2. **COVID-19 “Pooling” Testing - [Simple, pooled COVID-19 testing designed for K-12 schools](#)**

Best regards,

Kimberly McGrath
Superintendent
Reed Union School District
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