

Good afternoon Superintendents,

This email is a follow up regarding the power point on testing.

On July 14, 2021, the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) and the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), announced via broadcast that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) awarded \$267 million to NJDOH to assist provide COVID-19 screening testing resources and support to local educational agencies (LEAs) and nonpublic schools. These resources will be provided through the NJDOH K12 Screening Testing Program and will assist each participating LEA and nonpublic school in implementing testing plans that will be developed in collaboration with their local health departments and based on guidance from the NJDOH. The program can assist LEAs and nonpublic schools with meeting the requirements set forth in Executive Order 253 regarding COVID-19 testing for unvaccinated PreK-12 school personnel.

Please click the following link for additional information from the DOH

<https://www.nj.gov/education/broadcasts/2021/sept/1/NJDOHandNJDOEAnnounceProcessforSchoolstoOptintoCOVIDScreeningProgram.pdf>

The last page of the power point has the link to **opt into NJ's K-12 Screening Testing Support Program** which is

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/njschoolscreeningtesting>

Participation in this program is voluntary for LEAs and nonpublic schools. LEAs and nonpublic schools shall complete the enclosed survey by September 13, 2021 to indicate interest in, or opt-out of participation.

Thank you,

Stephanie Wiley

Secretarial Assistant to Child Study Team Supervisor & Educational Specialists

420 N. Woodbury-Turnersville Road

Blackwood, NJ 08012

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Fax: 856.401.2410

From: Wiley, Stephanie
Sent: Friday, September 3, 2021 12:50 PM
Subject: Final PPT

Good afternoon Superintendents,

Attached is the NJDOH PPT on testing

This presentation goes with the K-12 testing program information that was sent you yesterday.

Best regards,

Stephanie Wiley

Secretarial Assistant to Child Study Team Supervisor & Educational Specialists

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K-12 School Screening Testing Program

September 2, 2021

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Overview of New Jersey COVID-19 and K-12 schools and students

63% **281** **1.2M**

Increase in COVID-19 cases in NJ in past month¹

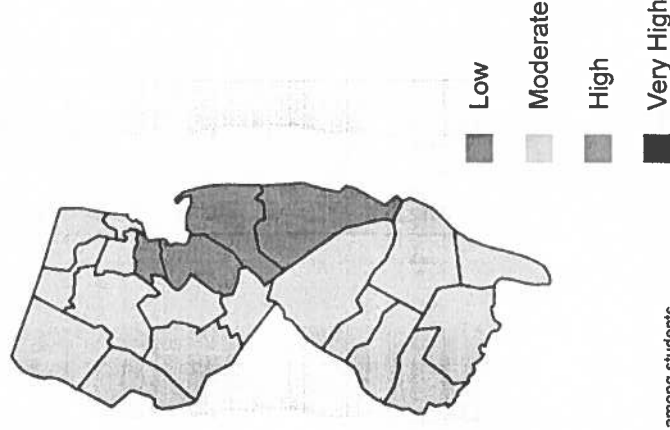
School outbreaks since August 2020²

Children aged 5-17 not fully vaccinated against COVID-19³

Protection against COVID-19 exposure remains essential in school due to the:

- **Highly transmissible nature of the Delta variant⁴** (many people with COVID-19, especially children and teens, do not exhibit symptoms but can still spread the virus⁵)
- **School's have a mixed population of those fully and not-fully vaccinated individuals in schools (children ages <12 are not currently eligible for vaccination and not all eligible students have been vaccinated to date)⁴**

COVID-19 Activity Level Report
(week ending August 21, 2021)⁶



1. Based on change in state case count across all ages from July 31, 2021 (1,009) to August 31, 2021 (1,642); : NJDOH "New Jersey COVID-19 Dashboard" (accessed 9/1/2021)
 2. NJDOH "NJ COVID-19 School-Related Outbreaks Dashboard" (accessed 9/1/2021). Definition of outbreak per NJDOH dashboard: "Two or more laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases among students or staff with onsets within a 14 day period, who are epidemiologically linked within the school setting, do not share a household, and were not identified as close contacts of each other in another setting during standard case investigation or contact tracing."
 3. Experian 2020 Q4 and current 12-17 vaccination data per NJJIS (as of 8/31/21)
 4. CDC "Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools" (published 8/5/2021)
 5. CDC "What You Should Know About COVID-19 Testing in Schools" (8/25/2021)
 6. NJ DOH "COVID-19 Activity Report Week 33 (MMWR week ending August 21, 2021)" (accessed 9/1/2021)

K-12 testing programs can help schools re-open safely



Regular testing helps to identify COVID-19 positive cases promptly and reduce the risk of the virus spreading to others and causing an outbreak¹



Testing supports safer in-person instruction and participation in sports and extracurriculars²



Testing students, teachers, and staff can reduce in-school infections by an estimated 50%³ and reduce disruptions to in-person learning¹

1. CDC "What You Should Know About COVID-19 Testing in Schools" (published 8/25/2021)
2. NJDOH & CDS "Public Health Recommendations for Implementing COVID-19 Screening Testing in K-12 Schools" (published 8/30/2021)
3. Rockefeller Foundation "Research Commissioned by The Rockefeller Foundation Strengthens Evidence Base for Reopening K-12 Schools with Robust Covid-19 Testing Programs" (published 2/4/2021)

Preliminary, proprietary, and pre-decisional. Based on input provided by State agency leaders and staff, to date, and subject to change. Content is descriptive only and is not meant to constitute legal, clinical, or policy advice.

K-12 School Screening Testing Program Overview

To support safe return to in-person learning, NJDOH will offer COVID-19 screening testing support to K-12 local education agencies (LEAs) and non-public schools (e.g., private, independent, parochial, or charter schools) for testing students and school staff¹ throughout NJ

What is offered through this program?
(additional detail to follow)

2 types of support options will be offered through the program (either option, not both):

1. End-to-end vendor screening testing support	OR	2. Funding for an already planned or implemented screening testing program
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What are the eligibility requirements?

All schools in New Jersey are welcome to participate (i.e. public, charter, parochial, independent, private)

Who can be tested through this program?

Both students and school staff¹ may be tested for COVID-19 through this program per CDS guidance

How long will NJDOH support continue?

State support will continue for this program until all dedicated federal funding is expended, at which point LEAs and non-public schools may continue the programs

1. School staff is inclusive of all K-12 school employees who will be on site at schools in the 2021-2022 school year. This includes, but is not limited to, teachers, environmental and building service workers, substitute teachers, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, athletic coaches, or other adult in PreK-12 school building who regularly interacts with students and has a contractual relation with the LEA or non-public school

Source: NJDOH, NJDOE, NJ Office of the Governor

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K-12 School Screening Testing Program support options

All school districts / schools must complete the intake form before 9/13 to opt-in or opt-out of receiving either form of support. Any non-response will be marked as opt-out.

Option 1

End-to-end vendor screening testing support through state-contracted vendors

- NJDOH will provide **contracted vendors for end-to-end screening testing on-site at schools**
- This **comprehensive service** will include at a minimum the implementation, management, staffing, equipment, and operations (including reporting) needed to run school screening testing clinics
 - **Vendors will be assigned to regions and provide testing programs in accordance with latest CDS guidance and the CALL score of their region**

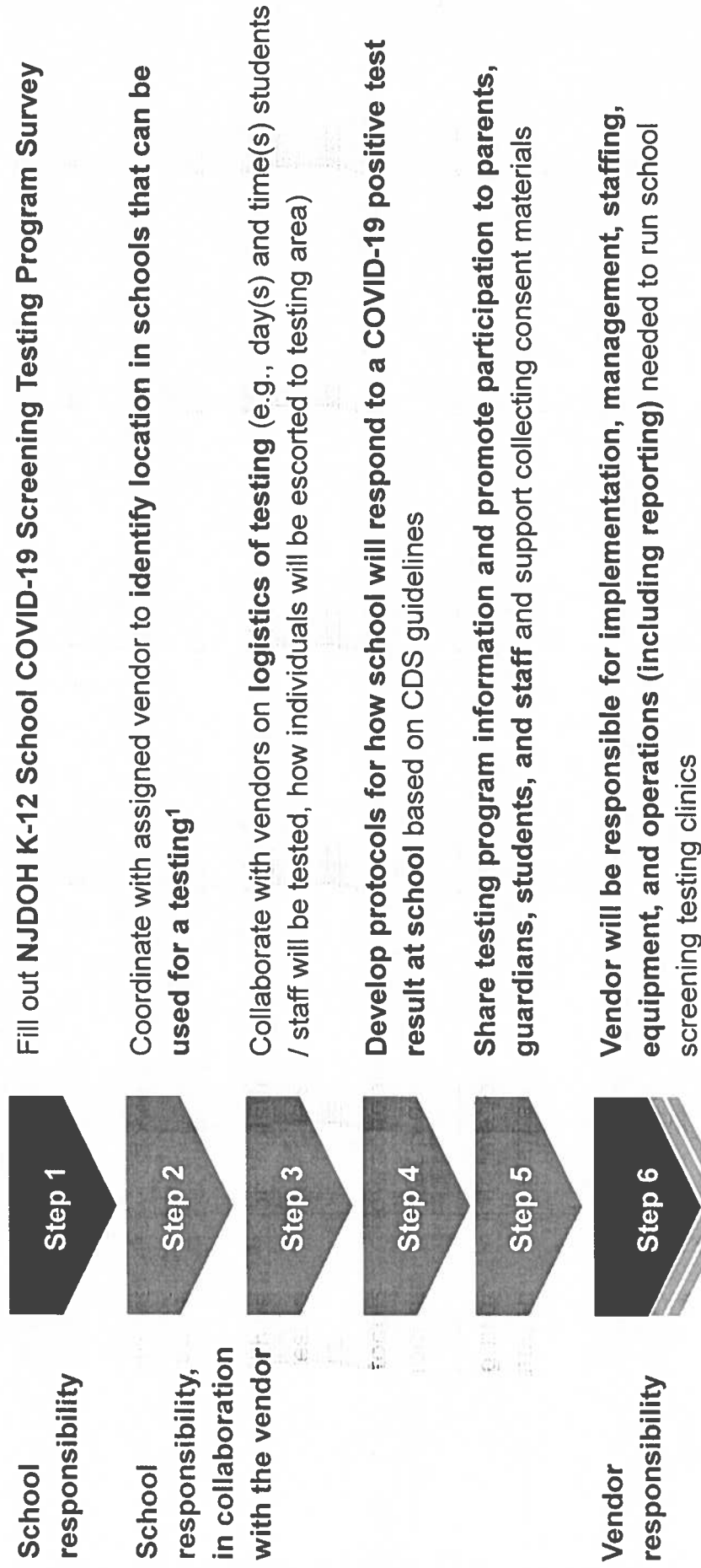
Option 2

Funding support for schools with screening testing programs / plans in place

- For LEAs and non-public schools that have a **testing program or plan in place**, NJDOH will offer funding to support screening testing
- **Funding allocations will be based on a formula that considers enrollment and anticipated costs.**
 - To receive funding, LEAs or non-public schools **must submit their screening testing plan¹** via the intake survey, and it must meet current CDS guidance
 - If this option is selected, **LEAs and non-public schools are fully accountable for organizing and implementing their testing programs** in accordance with CDS guidance

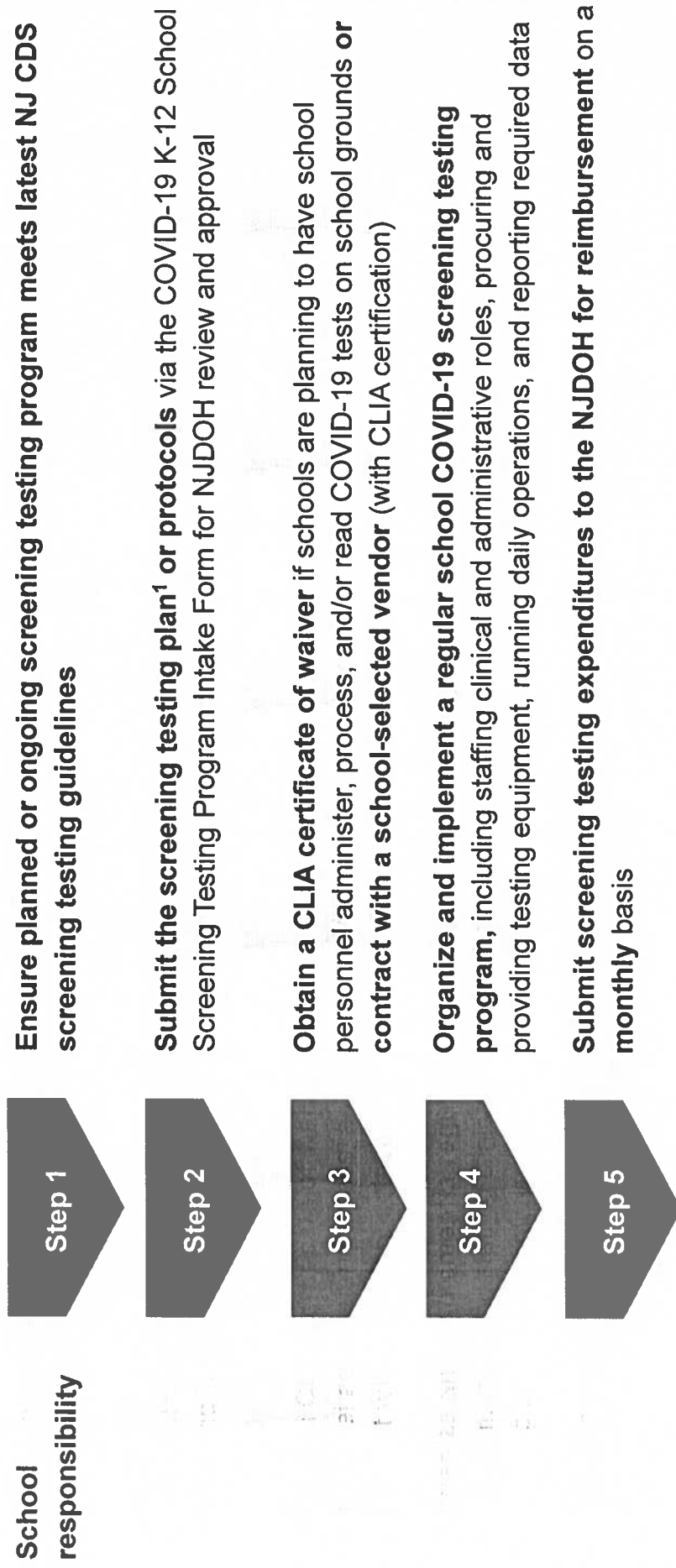
1. Screening testing plan must include how schools or entities conducting testing on behalf of schools will report results to the NJDOH per CDS requirements Preliminary, proprietary, and pre-decisional. Based on input provided by State agency leaders and staff, to date, and subject to change. Content is descriptive only and is not meant to constitute legal, clinical, or policy advice.

Potential steps to stand up a COVID-19 screening testing program for schools that opt into end-to-end vendor testing support (option 1)



1. If a location cannot be identified at the school, NJDOH, vendors, and school leaders may work together to secure other accessible locations for COVID-19 testing Preliminary, proprietary, and pre-decisional. Based on input provided by State agency leaders and staff, to date, and subject to change. Content is descriptive only and is not meant to constitute legal, clinical, or policy advice.

Potential steps to stand up a COVID-19 screening testing program for schools that opt into funding testing support (option 2)



1. Screening testing plan must include how schools or entities conducting testing on behalf of schools will report results to the NJDOH per CDS requirements Preliminary, proprietary, and pre-decisional. Based on input provided by State agency leaders and staff, to date, and subject to change. Content is descriptive only and is not meant to constitute legal, clinical, or policy advice.

How can you help support screening testing in your district or at your school?

Ways to support

- **Complete the COVID-19 K-12 School Screening Testing Program Intake Form** to opt-in to one of the forms of screening testing support
- **Promote the screening testing program and share information and coordination materials (e.g., consent forms)** among students, staff, and parents / guardians
- **Be the first line of defense for questions in your school's community**, and share any outstanding questions with NJDOH and NJDOE through the COVID-19 school testing email when needed

Resources to utilize in outreach to school

- [NJDOH/NJDOE K-12 Screening Testing Support Information Packet](#)
- [CDC K-12 School Testing Toolkit](#)
- [CDS K-12 School Guidance](#)
- [US HHS Back to School Toolkit](#)

Questions?

For additional questions after this session, please contact:

COVID.schooltesting@doh.nj.gov

**To opt-in to NJ's K-12 Screening Testing Support Program,
visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/njschoolscreeningtesting>**

Dear School District/School POC,

We are writing to confirm receipt of your request to opt in to the vendor testing option in the state school screening testing program. Additional details are forthcoming. Thank you so much for your patience.

Regards,
DOH Testing Team

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Greetings Camden County Education Stakeholders,

Thank you for your patience as we worked through the School Screening Testing Program submission data to finalize details and assignments. The assigned vendor for Camden County is:

Longview (LTS)

Look out for correspondence from them in the coming days with directions to begin onboarding and coordination of your testing.

Please remember, the screening testing program must always follow the CDC and CDS guidance at minimum. Given the current CALI scores across the state, that currently means students, teachers, and other staff who are not fully vaccinated should be tested at least once per week. Again, this is the minimum testing protocol. However, the program is open and offered to all students, teachers, and other school staff in your school/district who wish to participate so please be prepared to coordinate with your assigned vendor and local team to ensure access to those eligible parties who wish to participate. The *latest CDS guidance and CDC contact tracing resources* are attached for quick reference.

All vendors are under contract with the NJ Department of Health and as part of this program will only provide services as directed under their contract. By participating in this program, schools/districts agree that any additional services requested outside of this must be contracted and funded independently of the state screening testing program. Included services are as follows:

- All staff required for testing, including bilingual staff and/or translation services required to ensure accessibility to all parties
- Vendors must maintain Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) certification or have an active contract with a CLIA-certified laboratory
- Testing supplies, specimen collection, and courier service to transport supplies to testing sites and collected specimens to laboratories
- Setup, breakdown, and sanitization of testing areas, including disposal of medical and non-medical waste
- Processes and necessary supplies and equipment for registration, consent, check-in, and delivery of test results in electronic and/or paper format
- Reporting of laboratory results to the State via CDRSS and weekly reports to NJDOH and designated school/district official(s) to ensure access to necessary data for required SIC module reporting

Schools will not be billed directly. Some vendors may ask participants for insurance information if applicable. Otherwise, vendors are to bill NJDOH for services rendered.

Required Reporting

By participating in this program, schools/districts agree to complete the required reporting via the K-12 Surveillance for Influenza and COVID-19 (SIC) Module via CDRSS as per the latest CDS guidance. A user guide and training video are available on the CDRSS webpage in the 'System Announcement' column. If the designated POC in your school/district does not yet have a CDRSS account, there are also instructions for requesting access and a quick start guide for orientation to the system. We recommend starting this process as soon as possible so your are ready to being reporting as soon as testing begins at your school.

Communication

If you are receiving this message, you are currently listed as the point of contact (POC) for your district or school per information provided in the intake survey. This notice and any future messages related to the program will be sent to you. If you are not the correct contact, please let us know as soon as possible. If you have any

questions or concerns about the program, please contact your assigned Regional Testing Coordinator Shereia Harper at sharper@cdcfoundation.org or send to the school screening testing inbox COVID.schooltesting@doh.nj.gov.

Thank you,
NJDOH Testing Team

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