

Questions for local leaders to ask regarding saliva testing for educators working in-person with students

As part of the updated Safe Learning Plan from MDE, all districts will be required to “execute a COVID-19 testing program (training and saliva test kits provided by the State; optional for school staff) every other week for all school staff, beginning January 4, 2021.” MDE has clarified that testing will commence on Jan. 18, but not all districts or buildings will have testing for staff on that day. Testing days will be staggered in order to ensure that testing sites can process samples as quickly as possible.

Education Minnesota has created the following questions for locals to use to help ensure that districts are taking the necessary steps to comply with the testing mandate, and that staff have necessary resources to make the testing process as safe and efficient as possible. These questions could be posed in an email to district leadership, in an incident command team/advisory council meeting, or, if the district is not being forthcoming, as part of a data practices request.

1. Who is being tested?
2. When is testing starting?
3. Who will be the on-site test coordinator?
4. Which staff will be administering the tests?
5. Will those staff receive hazard pay?
6. What training will staff receive?
7. What will be the protocols for administering the tests?
8. In what order will people be tested?
9. How will the testing site be organized to ensure distancing and privacy?
10. Who will receive test results?
11. What laboratory will tests be sent to?
12. What happens if I am unavailable on a testing date?
13. Will testing take place at each building?
14. Testing must occur on paid work time. What plans is the district making in scheduling to ensure that this will occur?

If you have any questions about this information or are experiencing challenges getting necessary information from your district, please contact your Education Minnesota Field Staff.

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