



COVID-19 School Activities Toolkit

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Please see the Lake County Health Department [website](#) for updates to this document. Any new guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) or the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) supersedes this document.

Schools can report positive cases of COVID-19 and close contacts to positive cases using the Lake County Health Department case reporting tool.

<https://redcap.dph.illinois.gov/surveys/?s=NHECLHEHFP>

This document was last updated on 9/17/2020.

Key Definitions

Point of Contact (POC) – A district employee(s) appointed by the superintendent to be responsible for contacting the Lake County Health Department (LCHD) hotline or reporting through the online reporting form when a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 is identified within the district. This person works with other school personnel to identify potential close contacts within the district and share information with LCHD. The Point of Contact is the liaison between the school district and LCHD. This person must be accessible after hours and weekends.

Potential Close Contacts – Identified individuals who have been within 6 feet for 15 minutes or longer (within a 24-hour period) of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, during the infectious period. These individuals are expected to self-quarantine immediately for 14 days from the last date of contact with the positive case and await their close contact status to be confirmed by the LCHD contact tracing team. A quick response to identify and quarantine potential close contacts helps to slow the possible transmission of the virus. The school notifies potential close contacts initially before they are confirmed by the health department.

Close Contact – An individual, confirmed by the LCHD contact tracing team, to be within 6 feet for 15 minutes or longer (within a 24-hour period) of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, during the infectious period. LCHD determines close contacts and considers other risk factors in this determination, such as masking, if a person was coughing, or others. Schools are not expected to count minutes that students or staff are in contact. Close contacts will be required to quarantine for 14 days from the last date they had contact with the infected person. It is highly recommended that all close contacts get tested for COVID-19 with a molecular test, but individuals must complete the 14 days of quarantine even when test results are negative. They will be in contact with LCHD for the duration of the quarantine period.

Secondary Contact/Contact of a Contact – An individual who has had contact with someone identified as a close contact to a person who has tested positive for COVID-19. In most instances, these individuals do not require quarantine, but are encouraged to monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

Quarantine – Required for someone identified as a close contact to a positive case of COVID-19. This person must remain at home and avoid all public activities for 14 days from the last date of contact with the positive case, even if they receive a negative test result. The incubation period in which symptoms of COVID-19 may develop is considered 14 days. During quarantine, people should not have visitors to their home. Children should not have playdates or attend parties or gatherings. People in quarantine also should not go shopping. The only time people in quarantine should go out is to seek emergency medical attention or a COVID-19 test.

Isolation – Required for someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. This person must attempt to separate themselves from others completely for a minimum of 10 days; however, other criteria may apply when the person is either symptomatic or asymptomatic. People in isolation should try to use their own bedroom and bathroom if possible, avoid shared living spaces, stay 6 feet apart from others in the household at all times, and wear masks anytime they are around others in their home. Case investigators provide detailed instructions to families. The LCHD Case Investigator identifies a release from isolation date.

Case Investigator – An employee from LCHD assigned to the contact tracing investigation of someone who tests positive for COVID-19. This individual maintains communication with the positive case throughout the isolation period and identifies a release from isolation date in which the individual can return to work or school.

Contact Tracing – LCHD Case Investigators and Contact Tracers reach out to individuals who test positive

for COVID-19 to identify close contacts. The POC is not responsible for contact tracing but works with other school personnel to identify potential close contacts within the school setting and school activities. The POC shares that information with LCHD for the purpose of contact tracing.

Incubation Period – The period between exposure to a virus and the appearance of the first symptom. This period can range from 2–14 days.

Infectious Period – Two days prior to the onset of symptoms or two days prior to the positive test date (if asymptomatic) until the individual is released from isolation by LCHD.

Symptomatic – Exhibiting symptoms of an illness. Symptoms for COVID-19 may appear 2–14 days after exposure to the virus.

Asymptomatic Case – a positive test for COVID-19 in an individual who exhibits no symptoms. COVID-19 can still spread even if a person is asymptomatic.

Community Spread – People have been infected with the virus in an area, including some who are not sure how or where they became infected. The level of community spread is determined by the Illinois Department of Public Health. [Several factors](#) are used in this determination including new cases, test positivity, new case rate per 100,000, and youth case increase. Schools are encouraged to consult with LCHD for guidance when determining a response level.

Frequently Asked Questions

Also see- <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/IDPH-School-FAQs.pdf>

1. Do schools need to clear a classroom that a student with a symptom was in?
Yes. The room needs to be cleared so it can be cleaned. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and IDPH recommend waiting 24 hours if possible before cleaning. If it is not possible, the room can be cleaned sooner. Schools should follow IDPH and CDC recommendations for cleaning and disinfection.
2. Do siblings of COVID-19 cases or suspected COVID-19 cases (1 or more symptoms) need to go home and quarantine for 14 days?
Yes.
3. When do school nurses need to wear fit-tested N95s?
School nurses should wear fit-tested N95s when administering any procedure that produces aerosolized particles (i.e., nebulizer treatment), and when evaluating symptomatic children and adults.
4. What should a school do if N95s are in short supply and cannot be procured?
The preferred mask is an N95. If N95 masks are unavailable, a KN95 can be substituted. If N95 or KN95 masks are not available, avoid procedures that could aerosolize the virus such as nebulizer treatments. Work with students to make sure these treatments can be done at home. Even with an N95, school staff should stay 6 feet from students and staff members as much as possible.
5. Where can nurses and/or other school staff get fit tested for N95 masks?
The Lake County Health Department offers fit testing by appointment for N95 masks. KN95 masks do not require fit testing. Please call Bob Bentz at (847) 377-8078 to make an appointment. You will need to bring your own mask with you for the fit testing. The mask will not be usable after the test. Vista Hospital in Lindenhurst also offers fit testing at a low cost. Please contact Cathy at (847) 356-4746.
6. If a student or staff tests negative and has no other risk factors (i.e., close contact of someone with COVID-19 or symptomatic household member), do they need a healthcare provider note to return?
No. **However, if a student or staff is a close contact of someone with COVID-19, they need to complete their 14-day quarantine even if they have a negative test.** If someone in the household is symptomatic, the student or staff cannot return to school with a negative test. The household member needs to have ruled out COVID-19 before the student or staff can return to school.
7. Are there types of face coverings that cannot be used?
Face coverings must be worn following IDPH and CDC guidance. Neck warmers/athletic

face coverings should not be used, per IDPH guidance. Masks with exhalation valves or vents are also not recommended.

8. Do students need to be masked all the time?

Yes. Face coverings may only be temporarily removed at school:

- When eating
- When outdoors and social distancing of at least 6 feet can be maintained
- When playing a musical instrument outdoors with at least 6 feet social distancing
- For staff, when alone in classrooms or offices.
- If using a face shield when other methods of protection are not available or appropriate (<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/IDPH-Update-Appropriate-Use-Face-Shields.pdf>)

9. What if we have a preschool or daycare, do they need to be masked?

Yes. All children over age 2 need to wear a face covering.

10. What if someone gets a positive COVID-19 test result followed by a second test with a negative result?

Any positive test means that the case will be treated as a positive case, regardless of getting retested with a negative result. We discourage repeat testing unless it is advised by a healthcare provider or the Lake County Health Department due to a special circumstance.

Symptom Screening for Young Students

Use before school

Student First and Last Name _____

Parent/Guardian First and Last Name(s)

If the answer to any of these questions is yes, the student or staff member should be dismissed from school immediately. Refer to the IDPH decision tree for next steps.

<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/IDPH-COVID19-Exclusion-Decison-Tree.pdf>

1. Has the child been in close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last 14 days? (Yes/No)
2. Has any health department or healthcare provider advised the child to stay home or quarantine? (Yes/No)
3. Has the child or anyone in the child's household tested positive for COVID-19?
4. Was the child tested for COVID-19 within the past 14 days and results are pending?
5. Does the child have any of these symptoms?
 - Fever 100.4°F or higher
 - New onset of moderate to severe headache
 - Shortness of breath
 - New cough
 - Sore throat
 - Vomiting
 - Diarrhea
 - Abdominal pain from unknown cause
 - New congestion/runny nose
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Nausea
 - Fatigue from unknown cause
 - Muscle or body aches

Symptom screening for middle and high school, and staff

Use before School or Before Boarding Transportation

Student First and Last Name _____

Parent/Guardian First and Last Name(s) _____

If the answer to any of these questions is yes, the student or staff member should be dismissed from school immediately. Refer to the IDPH decision tree for next steps. <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/IDPH-COVID19-Exclusion-Decison-Tree.pdf>

1. Have you been in close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last 14 days? (Yes/No)
2. Has any health department or health care provider advised you to stay home or quarantine? (Yes/No)
3. Have you or has anyone in your household tested positive for COVID-19?
4. Have you been tested for COVID-19 within the past 14 days and results are pending?
5. Since you were last at school, have you had any of these symptoms?
 - Fever 100.4°F or higher
 - New onset of moderate to severe headache
 - Shortness of breath
 - New cough
 - Sore throat
 - Vomiting
 - Diarrhea
 - Abdominal pain from unknown cause
 - New congestion/runny nose
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Nausea
 - Fatigue from unknown cause
 - Muscle or body aches

IDPH Decision Tree: COVID-19 Exclusion Guidance

<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/IDPH-COVID19-Exclusion-Decison-Tree.pdf>

Please follow any and all updated exclusion guidance from IDPH and refer to it for any circumstance related to COVID-19.

Individuals who test positive or those who were identified as close contacts need to have a “release from isolation/quarantine” letter in order to return, or a phone, email, or fax notification to the school from the Lake County Health Department. This letter can be obtained directly by the positive individual if they participate in symptom monitoring.

When they are positive and the Health Department is notified, the Health Department will call the individual and if they cooperate with the symptom monitoring program, they are entered into a system which sends texts or emails to monitor their symptoms. The individual will receive a confirmation text OR email where they must consent to participate in the symptom monitoring. At the end of their isolation/quarantine, a letter is auto generated to notify them that they have completed their isolation/quarantine. From there, they can print out the letter.

If an individual cannot locate their letter, they can call (847) 377-8130 and let them know that they participated in symptom monitoring and need a “release from isolation/quarantine letter.” This process is most efficient if everyone cooperates with symptom monitoring to receive this letter.

Sample Protocol for COVID-19 Symptoms at School (for staff)

If a student or staff member reports ONE or more COVID-19 symptoms during the school day or a school activity:

- Fever 100.4°F or higher
- New onset of moderate to severe headache
- Shortness of breath
- New cough
- Sore throat
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Abdominal pain from unknown cause
- New congestion/runny nose
- New loss of taste or smell
- Nausea
- Fatigue from unknown cause
- Muscle or body aches

Isolate the person from others. Ensure a staff person can supervise the student but stays 6 feet away and is masked.

Notify the school nurse or designated administrator.

School nurse or designated administrator should assess the situation and determine if the person should be sent home.

Sample Protocol for Nurses and Administrators

If a student or staff member reports ONE or more COVID-19 symptoms during the school day or a school activity:

Isolate the person from others in designated supervised quarantine space (room with a closed door and open window, if possible) where staff can supervise students from 6 feet away. School nurses and other healthcare providers should use [Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions](#) when caring for sick people. Wear a surgical mask and a face shield.

Send the person home. Individuals who are sick should be sent home and encouraged to see their provider and get tested. A healthcare provider must evaluate the student to differentiate COVID-19 symptoms from other causes and provide the student a note to return. Students should be symptom- and fever-free for 24 hours before returning if COVID-19 has been ruled out by a healthcare provider.

Close off areas used by the person with symptoms and if possible, wait up to 24 hours before cleaning and sanitizing. The CDC recommends 24 hours before cleaning. During this waiting period, open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation. Do not use these areas until after cleaning and disinfecting.

Clean and disinfect. Follow the CDC [cleaning and disinfection recommendations](#). Vacuum the space, if needed, with a high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter, if available. Do not vacuum a room or space that has people in it. Wait until the room or space is empty to vacuum, such as at night, and temporarily turn off room fans and the central HVAC system that services the room or space, so that particles that escape from vacuuming will not circulate throughout the facility.

If a student or staff member tests positive

Confirmed cases of COVID-19 should be reported to the local health department by the school nurse or designee as required by the [Illinois Infectious Disease Reporting requirements](#). Districts should inform the school community of outbreaks per local and state health department guidelines while maintaining student and staff confidentiality.

If the Lake County Health Department (LCHD) is made aware of a positive test in a school district, the district superintendent will be notified. The superintendent will notify the appropriate school nurse or other designated staff.

Review and follow Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) best practices.

<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/IDPH-School-Daycare-Best-Practices.pdf>

If requested by LCHD, assist in gathering contact information for known close contacts (within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more) at the school. LCHD will work with schools to determine if close contacts of suspected or confirmed cases should also be sent home, and if additional steps need to be taken. *See contact tracing checklist.*

Inform staff and families of possible exposure to COVID-19 but maintain confidentiality. See sample letter from LCHD in the appendix. Ensure that staff and families know that they should not come to school if they have been exposed (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) to a person with confirmed COVID-19, or if symptoms develop.

If LCHD is made aware of a positive test in a school district before the school makes a report, the district superintendent will be notified. The superintendent will notify the appropriate school nurse or other designated staff.

School Contact Tracing Checklist for Nurses and Administrators

Designate a school COVID-19 point of contact for contact tracing investigations. This should be a nurse or school administrator at the school building.

Notify the Lake County Health Department (LCHD) of confirmed cases right away.

If a student or staff is a suspected case of COVID-19 or reports they tested positive, LCHD may request the school gather information to assist in contact tracing.

Be prepared to:

- Review class schedules with student or staff to determine seating locations, activities/whereabouts before, between, and after classes, etc.
- Ask teachers to share seating charts to assist in identifying students in close contact with other students or staff who are confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases. This may also include students sitting in front of, behind, and to the right and left sides, if their desks are stationed within 6 feet.
- Ask the student or staff about close contacts at school. These could be teachers, staff, students sitting within 6 feet of them, and close friends. (Close contact means within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes.)
- If requested, gather names and phone numbers for parents of close contacts to share with health department contact tracers. LCHD may ask for assistance from the school to encourage close contacts to stay home and monitor symptoms for 14 days.

Also notify school and district leadership, including the superintendent.

Use the Confirmed Case Template Letter in the appendix to inform parents of COVID-19 cases at school while protecting confidentiality. Also inform any known close contacts that they may receive a phone call from contact tracers.

Contact Tracing Roles, Responsibilities, and Activities

Role/Responsibility/Activity	Designated person
When case identified, notify the appropriate school stakeholders (school administration, superintendent) and Lake County Health Department (LCHD)	LCHD or School (depends on who receives report of case first)
Initial conference call to review the situation and provide preliminary public health recommendations	LCHD Medical Epidemiologist and liaisons +/- IDPH staff and school administration
Compile list of close contacts of confirmed case within school	School nurse and staff
Notify parents and children (school community) of a confirmed case	School LCHD open to review communications
Investigate case and conduct contact tracing	LCHD case investigators and contact tracers
Conference call to review the case and contact tracing investigation findings and modify public health recommendations (if needed)	LCHD Medical Epidemiologist and liaison(s) +/- IDPH staff
Provide public health recommendations and education to staff and students exposed to COVID-19	LCHD case investigators and contact tracers
Answer follow-up questions from school admin	LCHD Medical Epidemiologist and liaison(s)

*Additional calls may be held with respective stakeholders depending on size of investigation.

Preliminary information request

School staff may be asked to assist contact tracers with preliminary information. Here is some information that contact tracers from LCHD might ask for when they interview students and staff. Consider providing the information below (for each student) in an Excel document to LCHD. **Prioritize #1-8 to provide LCHD.**

1. Name
2. Date of birth
3. Grade in school
4. Parent guardian/name
5. Phone number of parent/guardian
6. Date of exposure to a person with COVID-19
7. Type and details of exposure (sitting together in class, attended a party, etc.)
8. PPE used (Were students and teachers wearing face coverings, face shields, etc.?)
9. Symptoms (Yes/No) If symptoms, provide symptom description
10. Testing (Was the student tested for COVID-19? What were the results?)
11. How did the school respond (Was the student or teacher in the building? Were they sent home? Are the students and their family staying home and quarantining/isolating if the situation warrants?)
12. Information on workplaces or activities (Did the student participate in a club or sport? Does the student work outside of school? What classes does the teacher instruct?)
13. Names and phone numbers of close contacts or gathering organizers (if interviewing a positive case)

Appendix A. Confirmed Case in School Letter Template

We are writing to inform you that an individual at [insert school name] tested positive for COVID-19 on [DATE]. This individual is now in isolation. We [or school name] are closely working with the Lake County Health Department on contact tracing to prevent further spread within our school and community. The Health Department will contact the individual who tested positive directly and any close contacts will be identified, contacted and provided guidance. If you do not receive communication from school administration or the Health Department, your student has not been identified as a close contact and can continue to attend school. If you are contacted by the school or Health Department, we ask that you please cooperate by providing information to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our school community.

To prevent further spread of the disease, [School name] is taking the following steps:

- Placing staff members and students who are identified as close contacts to the COVID-19 case in quarantine for 14 days. Close contacts will also receive a separate notification from the Health Department.
- Ongoing monitoring of students and staff for signs and symptoms of illness and evaluation of illness reports to promptly identify possible outbreaks.
- Conducting a deep clean and disinfection of the areas impacted by potential exposure to the COVID-19 virus.
- Other actions:

We will continue to enforce safe practices to prevent, promptly identify, and respond to potential COVID cases, as follows:

- Students and staff who are ill with COVID-like symptoms will promptly be placed in a separate supervised area away from others until they can be sent home.
- Staff and students are required to wear face coverings at all times, as previously directed and per school policy.
- We are continuously sanitizing high-touch surfaces including door handles, stair rails, sink faucets, etc.
- We are teaching students the importance of face coverings, social distancing, and proper handwashing.
- As we receive more information from the Illinois Department of Public Health and other entities, we will implement additional recommendations and guidelines.

We understand your concern about the identity of the individual who tested positive so students or staff can assess their possibility of exposure. However, federal privacy laws prevent administration or the school district from providing any information that would otherwise lead to the identification of this person.

The Health Department will never disclose identifying information to close contacts. Beware of scams. Contact tracers will never ask for a social security number, money, bank or credit card information, or any form of payment. They will not ask for immigration status or threaten consequences for not participating or answering questions.

Given the spread of COVID-19 in Lake County, we should not be surprised when presumed positive or positive test results are identified within our community. It may continue to occur, and this is a major reason why the maintaining social distance, masking and washing your hands are all still **very important** to prevent the virus from spreading.

The Lake County Health Department advises the following in and outside of school:

- Remember that wherever you go, you should always follow public health guidelines, including the 3 Ws to reduce your risk of getting and spreading COVID-19:
 - WEAR A MASK
 - WASH YOUR HANDS
 - WATCH YOUR DISTANCE
- Stay home if you are sick, except to receive medical care, and avoid close contact with people who are sick. Do not walk into a healthcare facility, urgent care clinic, or hospital before calling. Discuss your symptoms with your doctor. If your doctor believes that you need to be tested for COVID-19, they should refer you to a COVID-19 testing site.
- Get the flu vaccine!
- If you are an older adult or have a serious medical condition like heart disease, diabetes, lung disease or have a weakened immune system, contact your doctor immediately if you have any COVID-19 symptoms.
- If you do not have a doctor or primary care provider, you may contact the Lake County Health Department at (847) 377-8800. Testing can currently be done free of charge at 102 W. Water St. in Waukegan, IL between 8am-4pm. Testing is also available at other locations <https://dph.illinois.gov/testing>

If you have any COVID-19 questions, call the Illinois COVID-19 hotline at (800) 889-3931 or email dph.sick@illinois.gov. You may also want to consider signing up for updates from the Lake County Health Department at <http://bit.ly/lccovid-19>.

Be safe!

Appendix B. General Message to Parents at Beginning of School Year (TEMPLATE)

Dear Parents,

We know the anxieties, uncertainties, and fear some of you may be feeling as we begin the 2020-2021 school year under COVID-19 circumstances. Our daily lives look different and so does the school environment.

Will there be school events or athletic competitions? What will the school do if there is a positive COVID-19 case? All these questions, and I'm sure many more, are valid questions and ones that we have asked ourselves as school administrators. Regarding precautions for COVID-19, [School name] has structured every space and classroom in accordance with the guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois State Board of Education to ensure the lowest possible risk for infection and spread of COVID-19.

[School name] is asking for your cooperation in not sending your student to school if they have any COVID-19 symptoms (see below). Encourage your student to wear a mask, wash their hands often, and maintain 6 feet of distance from others.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), COVID-19 symptoms include any of the following:

Fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea.

Regarding positive cases in the school:

[School name] is working closely with the Lake County Health Department who will be notified about any and every confirmed and probable case in the school. If your student is determined to be a "close contact" (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) of a presumed or confirmed case of COVID-19, you will be contacted directly by the Lake County Health Department with specific instructions for your student.

We ask for your cooperation with the Lake County Health Department and with contact tracing. Contact tracing can help prevent further transmission of the virus by quickly identifying and informing people who may be infected and contagious, so they can take steps to not infect others. <https://www.lakecountyiil.gov/4469/Contact-Tracing>

If you do not receive communication from school administration or the Lake County Health Department directly, your student has not been identified as a close contact and can continue to attend school.

We understand your concern about the identity of an infected staff member/student. **However, federal privacy laws prevent administration, or the school district, from sharing the name of the staff member/student or providing any information that would otherwise lead to the identification of this staff member/student.**

At this juncture, we should not be surprised when presumed positive or confirmed cases are identified within our school or community. We assume this will continue to happen, and this is a major reason why maintaining social distance, masking, and hand washing are all still very important.

The Lake County Health Department advises the following:

Remember that wherever you go, you should always follow public health guidelines - **the 3 Ws** - to reduce your risk of getting and spreading COVID-19:

- WEAR A MASK
- WASH YOUR HANDS
- WATCH YOUR DISTANCE

If you or someone in your family develop symptoms of COVID-19, call your healthcare provider. For more information on when to seek emergency medical attention, visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

Do not walk into a healthcare facility, urgent care clinic, or hospital before calling. Discuss your symptoms with your doctor. If your doctor believes that you need to be tested for COVID-19, they should refer you to a COVID-19 testing site.

Set up a childcare back-up plan in the event your child cannot attend school or is sent home with symptoms.

If you have any COVID-19 questions, call the Illinois COVID-19 hotline at (800) 889-3931 or email dph.sick@illinois.gov. You may also want to consider signing up for updates from the Lake County Health Department at <http://bit.ly/lccovid-19>.

Be safe!

COVID-19 Testing Basics

Except for rare situations, a test-based strategy is no longer recommended to determine when an individual with SARS-CoV-2 infection is no longer infectious (i.e., to discontinue Transmission-Based Precautions or home isolation). In simple terms, someone who has tested positive does not need a negative test to return to school. Some people continue to test positive long after their infectious period. Instead, people who have tested positive can return to school once it has been 10 days since their symptom onset or positive test, *and* they have seen symptom improvement *and* have been fever free for 24 hours.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/testing-overview.html>

FDA: COVID-19 Testing Basics: <https://www.fda.gov/media/140161/download>

What are the different types of tests?

1. MOLECULAR TEST

- Also known as... Diagnostic test, viral test, molecular test, nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT), RT-PCR test, LAMP test
- Administered through a nasal or throat swab (most tests)
- Time to result = 1 to 7 days
- Accuracy: highly accurate and usually does not need to be repeated
- **Molecular tests should be the primary test of choice.**

2. ANTIGEN TEST

- Rapid diagnostic test (Some molecular tests are also rapid tests)
- Administered through a nasal or throat swab
- Recommended for symptomatic individuals
- Time to result = within an hour
- Accuracy: Positive results are usually highly accurate but negative results may need to be confirmed with a molecular test.

****Note: The Lake County Health Department (LCHD) will offer guidance on the POSITIVE result. Often, individuals will take a molecular test just a day or two after an antigen test and the result may be negative. The LCHD will not accept the negative result as an absence of infection and will recommend isolation and quarantine of close contacts based on the first positive result.**

3. ANTIBODY TEST (not a diagnostic test that will show active infection)

- Serological test, serology, blood test, serology test
- Administered through a fingerstick or blood draw
- Time to result = same day or 1-3 days
- Accuracy: May need to be repeated for accuracy
- Shows if you've been infected by coronavirus in the past but does not tell you if you have a current COVID-19 infection