

12/1/2020 Frequently Asked Questions on Surveillance Testing

Why do I have to take a COVID-19 test if I do not have any symptoms?

State guidance and local public health departments require that all local education agency staff take regular COVID-19 viral tests for surveillance. "Surveillance" is a public health term that refers to the collection of health data to determine the location and incidence of diseases and the populations affected by them. Data collected from surveillance testing may help decrease our county's positivity rate, which is one of the measure used to determine whether and to what extent specific industry sectors, including schools, may reopen. In addition to providing surveillance data, regular COVID-19 testing may also help identify individuals who need to isolate from others to help prevent the spread, including those who have COVID-19 but are asymptomatic.

Do I need to test with SBCEO if I already participate in routine surveillance testing with the school district where my position is located?

Employees who work at Direct Service sites for our Special Education division including Cuyama Joint Unified School District, Cold Spring School District, and Montecito Union School District do not have to participate in this process but will have to continue to complete an SBCEO attestation form confirming their most recent date of testing with the school district. These employees will continue to be sent the attestation form for completion through InformedK12 according to the SBCEO testing schedule.

Do I need to participate in this testing process if I recently tested with a healthcare provider or at one of the state or county public health testing sites?

Yes. You will need to participate in this process whether or not you recently tested for other purposes.

Why does someone have to monitor me while I am self-administering the test?

Because each employee will self-administer the test, it's important that the testing procedure be followed consistently for accurate results. The observer is also responsible for tracking test administration.

Who will be observing me while I am administering the test to myself?

In some cases, the observer will be a Curative technician; in other cases, the observer may be an SBCEO staff member who has received the appropriate training. All observers are trained to maintain the confidentiality of your personal health information.

Can someone test negative and later test positive on a viral test?

Yes, it is possible to have different results during the infectious window. You may test negative if the sample was collected early in your infection and then test positive later during this illness. You could also be exposed to COVID-19 after the test and get infected then. Even if you test negative, you must continue following all of our adopted health and safety measures to prevent the spread.

How will I know my test results?

When scheduling your appointment, you will be asked to provide an email address and a phone number. Curative will send you an email and text with the results from your test. You can expect a result within a few days after test administration.

What will happen if my test comes back positive?

If you are at work when you receive the results, please inform your supervisor and colleagues (by email or phone) that you must return to your home promptly, making sure to wear your mask and remain physically distanced from others as you leave. Contact your supervisor once you are home to discuss isolation and the possibility of remote work. Your supervisor will consult with the division lead or Human Resources for support as needed. Your personal leaves will not be used for the duration of an isolation due to a diagnosis of COVID-19. Public Health will automatically be notified by the lab of any positive cases of COVID-19 and you should hear from both SBCEO and Public Health for the purposes of contact tracing.