

State of Vermont

Education.Vermont.gov

HealthVermont.gov

AOE.COVID19testing@vermont.gov

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Surveillance Testing for Summer Camps and Programs

Program Description/Concept Document

To support the health and safety of Vermont's children and youth, the State of Vermont is working with CIC Health in Massachusetts to offer regular COVID-19 surveillance testing for children, youth and staff through the Broad Laboratory for summer camps and programs.

Details of the program are as follows:

- All testing is voluntary for each camp, school or program.
- This testing program is available to vaccinated and unvaccinated school-aged children, age 8 years-old and older, as well as vaccinated and unvaccinated teachers/staff. Testing for those under 8 years of age is possible only with appropriate medical personnel on site.
- All State-funded testing will be run through the State contractor, CIC Health, using the Broad Laboratory and Binx data systems.
- Each camp or program will be responsible for obtaining consent for testing from each participant for the duration of their attendance at the camp or program. Parents/guardians can choose not to have their child participate in testing or withdraw consent for testing at any time. The camp or program will be responsible for obtaining and monitoring consent.
- The frequency of testing supported by the State for all camps and programs will be determined by the Vermont Department of Health. Other than during an identified outbreak, the camp/program will be responsible to pay for any additional testing outside the State's established frequency schedule.
- In the case of a positive test result, the Vermont Department of Health will work directly with the camp or program on any follow-up measures needed, as well as directly with the parents/guardians of the child who tested positive.



Why is COVID-19 Testing Important?

Testing for COVID-19 at programs like schools and summer camps remains an important way for Vermont to track and respond to COVID-19 in our communities. While vaccines provide a strong layer of defense, testing is still an important way to protect those who can't get vaccinated yet. This group includes young children and certain medically vulnerable individuals; so it is important to continue to offer testing in settings where children gather. Your participation in this program will help us keep Vermont safe and healthy.

Eligible Camps and Programs

Because testing support is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and federal American Rescue Plan dollars issued to state health departments, camps and programs do need to meet defined criteria to be eligible for testing support. Programs must either be affiliated with a school or municipality OR meet the federal programmatic requirements. The federal program requires that, in order to be eligible, camps or programs must be "providing equitable access to educational and recreational activities". (*Guidance for the use of supplemental funding (April 2021) for CK19-1904 ELC Reopening Schools: Support for Screening Testing to Reopen & Keep Schools Operating Safely through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021*)

This means that a summer camp or program must be an established (e.g. accredited by the American Camp Association, licensed through the State of Vermont, established nonprofit, etc.) camp or program that serves children age 8 or older as part of its program and that offers economic support for children to access recreational or educational opportunities. Economic support can include: sliding fee scales, scholarships, reduced rates for attendance or free and/or low-cost programs. Please note that the State of Vermont is not requiring or recommending testing for overnight camps. Nonetheless, this surveillance testing program is available to overnight camps should they choose to enroll.

Application and Self-attestation

If you are interested in enrolling with CIC Health for ongoing surveillance testing support this summer and believe that you qualify for eligibility as per the federal and state definitions listed above, please complete the [application and self-attestation](#).

The Vermont Department of Health will maintain your attestation document for audit purposes for a period of five (5) years in the event of any inquiry or state or federal audit.

Once the Vermont Department of Health has received and approved your attestation, you will receive an email with information enabling you to enroll directly with CIC Health.



Enrollment with CIC Health

- Camps/Programs may apply to the Vermont Department of Health (VDH) for permission to enroll in testing through CIC Health. Once approved through VDH, they will develop a direct relationship for testing and testing support with CIC Health and must contact CIC Health directly.
- CIC Health will distribute tests directly to the enrolled camps, and camps will be responsible for administering the testing program on site. The tests will be self-administered nasal swab PCR tests and do not require the supervision of a medical professional (unless testing children younger than 8 years-old).
- The State will pay for the testing through CIC Health on a schedule set by the VT Department of Health.
- CIC Health will provide a training webinar and offer technical assistance directly to camps and summer programs.

If you have questions about this surveillance testing program or camp eligibility, please email AOE.COVID19testing@vermont.gov.

