

From: Jason Maggard
Sent: Friday, October 1, 2021 12:35 PM
To:
Subject: SCOE COVID-19 Testing Program October 1
Attachments: Quest Diagnostics COVID-19 Self-Collection Kit Instructions.pdf; SCOE COVID-19 Testing Exemption Form.pdf

Good Afternoon,

Earlier today Governor Newsom announced future vaccine mandates for K-12 staff and students that could take effect as early as January 1, 2022. Until then, it is SCOE's intent to follow current guidance to implement a robust COVID-19 Testing Program.

On August 12, 2021, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) issued a mandate requiring school staff to demonstrate proof of full COVID-19 vaccination or be tested for the COVID-19 virus at least once per week. All staff will need to submit to testing using SCOE's Testing Program through Quest Diagnostics. The program utilizes a mid-nasal, PCR test that it is easy to use, comfortable to self-administer, and proven to be highly accurate. This is the same test SCOE utilized when the state initially recommended surveillance testing.

SCOE Testing Guidance

Prior to testing, if not already established, you will need to create a personal Quest account – this is a one-time event. [Click here](#) for assistance. For a direct link to the Quest Diagnostics website, visit [Quest Diagnostics](#) then select "Request A Test." **Personal accounts should be set up by Tuesday, October 5, 2021. Test Kits should be ordered by Tuesday, October 12, 2021 so testing can begin no later than Friday, October 15, 2021.**

Once your personal account is established, you are eligible to begin testing. Attached you will find detailed instructions on how to appropriately administer the COVID-19 Test, or watch an instructional video by [clicking here](#). For your convenience, test kits will be sent directly to your home address. Following self-administration of the tests, please send your nasal specimen back for analysis through FedEx or drop it in route mail at your worksite so it can be picked up and delivered on your behalf. If you plan to use route mail, please ensure it will be picked up within the appropriate timelines. Results will be sent to you and public health. **If you need technical assistance with ordering or submitting test kits, Quest Diagnostics has asked that you call for Universal Test Kit Support at 1-855-324-7472.**

Exemptions

Human Resources will review employee testing status on a regular basis. It is reasonable to request an exemption/waiver to this mandate by demonstrating full COVID-19 vaccination, prior infection, medical condition/disability, or religious beliefs. Exemption Requests can be found on SCOE's Intranet under Human Resources Safety Forms, or see the attached. Exemption requests must be submitted in-person to Human Resources for authorization. Additional information will be provided next week regarding collection of Exemption Forms. **Without an authorized exemption, staff are expected to test.** Failure to follow the CDPH mandate may result in disciplinary action.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping to keep SCOE safe.

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