



School Testing/Learn to Return

Overview of the Learn to Return COVID-19 Testing Program Expansion

The *Learn to Return* COVID-19 Testing Program started as a 13-school district pilot and has expanded to over 100 school districts serving more than 550,000 students. When a school district enrolls in the program, they are assigned a “testing strategist” from Health Commons Project who works with the district to design a tailored testing program that fits their unique needs.

To date, the *Learn to Return* program has primarily supported diagnostic testing. With the new funding from President Biden’s American Relief Package, the Washington State Department of Health will be able to support both diagnostic and screening testing for all students and staff through the end of the 2021-2022 school year.

Given this expanded scope, all Washington State school districts are encouraged to enroll in the *Learn to Return* program. Currently enrolled districts are encouraged to contact their testing strategist to learn more about screening testing and expanded program offerings.

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How Will School-Based Testing Look in My District?

Schools vary widely in their testing programs. For example, some districts keep a supply on the shelf, and have somebody in the building who knows when and how to administer it if needed. Other districts design more robust programs that include screening testing of students or faculty to identify asymptomatic cases. Your testing strategist will work with your district to help determine the best fitting testing strategy, and to help grow or adapt your testing strategy as your needs change.

This program is designed to be zero direct cost to your school district. The *Learn to Return* program provides training, strategic, and operational support to design a testing strategy that supports your district's goals and works for your school community. The expanded program will also provide support services such as labor support, data management services, and connection to care coordination services. More detailed information on additional support services and how to access them will be available soon.

How to Enroll in the COVID-19 Testing Program

1. Please fill out the interest and readiness assessment form (10 minutes)
2. Health Commons testing team assigns a testing strategist
3. Health Commons program manager will schedule a kick-off call with the district
4. Confirm that the program can meet the needs of the district, begin planning!
5. Planning usually takes 2-4 weeks depending on the goals and needs of the district

Not Ready to Enroll?

Deciding to offer school-based COVID-19 testing can be a challenging decision. If you would like a free, 30-minute consultation with a testing strategist before deciding to enroll, please contact the *Learn to Return* operating team at schools@healthcommonsproject.org. You can reach out now to plan for Summer or Fall.

Please also consider taking a few minutes to complete this anonymous survey to share your perspective on school-based COVID-19 testing with our team. Your response will help inform program development so we can best meet your needs.