How Public Schools\(^1\) can Partner with California’s Valencia Branch Laboratory to Provide COVID-19 Testing for High Contact Youth Sports

Background Information

What
The State of California has opened the **new Valencia Branch Laboratory (VBL)** with the goal of dramatically increasing daily COVID-19 testing by another 150,000 tests per day with a rapid turnaround time of under 48 hours\(^2\). The test kits provided are **anterior nasal swabs**, which can be self-administered and are easier to collect\(^3\).

Who
For **local education agencies** (e.g., districts) that would like to offer COVID-19 testing for youth sports programs, the State of California is providing **test kits, test registration software, test processing, and technical assistance at not cost to LEAs**.

Why
This program aims to support qualifying youth athletic activities, **football, rugby and water polo**, provided by public schools in **counties with an adjusted case rate between 14-7 per 100,000**.

State Responsibilities

- **Test kits**
- **Sample processing** in the laboratory
- **Results with a 24-48 hour turnaround goal**
- **Detailed support and instructions** for operating testing sites
- **Patient registration system**, and test result monitoring and notification system
- **Payment** of testing

District Responsibilities

- **Submit request** for required number of test kits
- **Procure PPE and provide physical space** for testing
- **Provide staff and manage on-site logistics**, such as patient registration, information collection etc.
- **Supervise self-administered nasal swabs** at testing site
- **Package and coordinate sample transportation**
- **Cover select costs** related to transport, site administration, equipment

8-Step Checklist to Conduct Testing

**Before testing** ~2 weeks

1. **Creating your collection plan**
2. **Completing the onboarding forms**
3. **Completing onboarding checklist**
4. **Registering with Color**
5. **Receiving test kits**

**Testing day**

6. **Supervising sample collections**
7. **Shipping collected samples for processing**

**After testing** 1 day 2-3 days

8. **Reporting**

All California districts have received an onboarding email, which contains the district onboarding form. If this email cannot be located or is not received, please visit [Color's support page](https://testing.covid19.ca.gov/school-testing/) and submit a request using the support form.

Next Steps & Resources

- **Access the Playbook and other resources for districts** [testing.covid19.ca.gov/school-testing/](https://testing.covid19.ca.gov/school-testing/)
- **Learn more about VBL and the Testing Task Force at** [testing.covid19.ca.gov/valencia-branch-laboratory/](https://testing.covid19.ca.gov/valencia-branch-laboratory/)

Still have questions?
- Attend an introductory webinar on how to get started by [filling out this form](https://testing.covid19.ca.gov/school-testing/)
- Please reach out to the Testing Task Force at TTFSchoolInquiry@cdph.ca.gov

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1. For independent charter or private schools, please refer to the Playbook to learn about your specific onboarding process.
2. 48-hour turnaround time goal from the time the completed samples arrive at VBL.
3. Per the CDC.