

Covid-19 Testing in QACPS - FAQ

QACPS is working with MAKO Medical which will allow us to perform a nasal swab Covid-19 rapid test for any student or staff who is symptomatic in the health room or a PCR with the MAKO team for close contacts or athletes.

1. Why is QACPS offering testing in schools?

Testing will be provided, with parent permission, to those students that are symptomatic or with MAKO for those required to test for athletics who are asymptomatic.

2. How will it expedite their quarantine?

If a student is symptomatic now, the school nurse sends the student home (to avoid spreading disease) and they are required to either get a negative test and quarantine or stay home for 5 days. If the test is given at school, the results come back in 15 minutes and the student can start the isolation and quarantine immediately or return to class.

3. How is this a benefit to my student athlete?

The new Bayside Conference protocols state any unvaccinated student athlete must get tested every 14 days. Testing is available at QACHS and KIHS on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays. Also, if there is an outbreak in athletics or extracurriculars, all participants must get tested regardless of vaccination status.

Keep in mind the QAC Health Department offers testing from 9-12 Monday through Friday by appointment (443-262-9909).

4. As a parent/guardian, what do I have to do?

Parents/guardians will be asked to register their students on the MAKO platform which will be emailed. This registration is consent to test your student. This consent will allow the school nurse, designated school staff member or MAKO representative to test your child should the situation arise. Please be sure to hit SUBMIT once you have entered all the information and exit the screen.

5. What if I don't want you to test my child, even if they are symptomatic?

If you do not want your child to be tested, then you do not need to register your child for testing.

6. Why register before my student even needs a test?

The online registration is a secure platform which can be accessed by the school nurses or MAKO employees. Should your student need to be tested, the nurse or MAKO employee will be able to pull up your child's information immediately and see that there is consent.

7. What if I have more than one child in QACPS?

You will be able to add each child once you register in the MAKO platform.

8. What happens to the information that I provide?

We are required to report the basic demographic information to the Maryland Department of Health (MDoH) together with the results. This information is for identification and contact tracing purposes. MAKO will report any pertinent information to the appropriate school. No information will be shared with any other parties other than those designated by your school and the MDH. All of your information is stored on a secure server and held confidential under all applicable Federal, State and local laws.

9. Who will be administering the swab test?

Trained employees of QACPS or MAKO will instruct the students how to do a self swab, making 5 circles in each nostril for the BinaxNow antigen test and up to 10 circles for the MAKO PCR test.

10. What happens if a child refuses the test?

QACPS or MAKO staff will **NOT** restrain an uncooperative student. The test will not be administered.

11. What happens to the rapid test swab after the results have been received?

The nasal swabs and any related materials will be placed in an approved, secure medical waste container.

12. What if I have more questions?

For specific questions, please contact the QACPS Supervisor of Health Services, Michele Morrissette at michele.morrissette@qacps.org

13. Who can be tested?

Testing is available for staff and students of QACPS only. Testing is not available for other family members or the community.