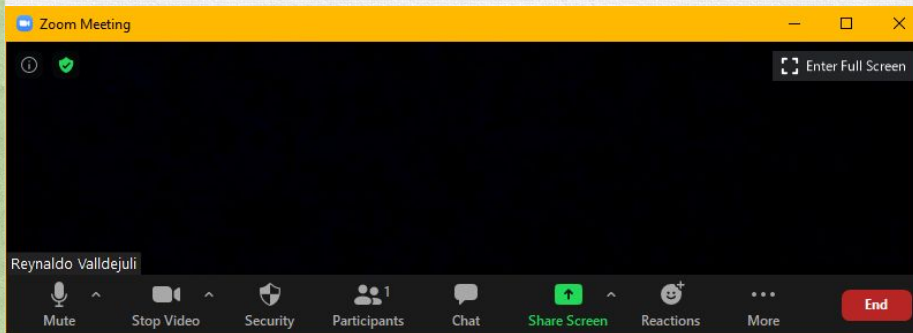




2022-2023
Ready to Achieve Operational
Guidelines
July 20, 2022

Zoom Meeting Preparation

- Please make sure your phone or computer is muted to minimize background noise.
 - To do this, hover over the bottom left-hand side of your screen and click “Mute.”
- Please make sure you have turned off your camera to save bandwidth and prevent any connectivity issues.
 - To do this, hover over the bottom left-hand side of your screen and click “Stop Video.”
- Please submit questions during the presentation in the “Chat” function located on the bottom of your screen.



NOTICE: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance at this meeting please contact Idoecomunications@la.gov.

Ready to Achieve 2022-2023 Operational Guidance

The [Ready to Achieve 2022-2023 Operational Guidance](#), developed by the Louisiana Department of Health, can help K-12 school and ECE program administrators support safe, in-person learning for K-12 schools, and keep ECE programs open, while managing the spread of COVID-19. Based on [COVID-19 Community Levels](#), this guidance provides flexibility so schools and ECE programs can adapt to changing local situations, including periods of increased community health impacts from COVID-19.

Louisiana Department of Health

Guidance for All Community Levels

- Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms, regardless of vaccination status, should be tested for COVID-19.
 - If a **rapid antigen test is negative**, a symptomatic person should seek confirmatory PCR testing.
 - If **confirmatory testing is negative**, they can return to school as long as they meet return-to-school requirements (e.g., 24-hours fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medication)
 - If **confirmatory testing is positive**, the symptomatic person has COVID-19 and should complete at-home isolation.
- Anyone who **tests positive by viral test** (antigen or PCR) for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, should complete [at-home isolation](#).
- Anyone who is **identified as a close contact** to a COVID-19 case should follow the appropriate [masking/quarantine guidance](#).

Louisiana Department of Health Guidance for All Community Levels

Personal Hygiene and Sanitation Recommendations:

- Teach and reinforce proper handwashing hygiene. Students and staff should wash hands frequently throughout the day.
- Take [additional steps](#) to increase outdoor air intake and improve air filtration.
- Teach and reinforce covering coughs and sneezes to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.
- Clean surfaces at least once a day to prevent the spread of germs.
- If an area has a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the last 24 hours, that area should be [cleaned and disinfected](#).
- Schools can consider screening testing for high-risk activities such as indoor sports and extracurricular activities.

Louisiana Department of Health Guidance for Medium or High COVID Community Levels

Current Louisiana Department of Health Masking Recommendations:

- High COVID-19 Community Level:
 - Universal indoor mask use is recommended at a high COVID-19 Community Level and when experiencing a COVID-19 outbreak.
- Medium COVID-19 Community Level:
 - People who are immunocompromised or at risk for getting very sick with COVID-19 should talk to their healthcare provider about the need to wear a mask.
- Schools can also choose to implement universal masking at any COVID-19 Community Level. Anyone who chooses to wear a mask should be supported in their decision to do so at any COVID-19 Community Level, including low.

Screening Testing:

- Schools can implement screening testing at any COVID-19 Community Level, but should especially be considered at medium and high COVID-19 Community Levels

Louisiana Department of Health Guidance for Medium or High COVID Community Levels

Cohorting:

- In areas with a high COVID-19 community level, cohorting can be used to limit the number of people who come in contact with each other.
- In areas with a high COVID-19 community level, school systems can also discourage crowding indoors to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19.

High-Risk Activities:

- Indoor sports, close contact sports and indoor extracurricular activities may put participants at an increased risk for getting and spreading the virus that causes COVID-19.
- Schools and ECE programs may consider temporarily stopping these activities to control a school or program-associated outbreak, or during periods of high COVID-19 Community Level.

K-12 COVID Outbreak Guidance

- K-12 schools should report **weekly aggregate case counts and core group outbreaks** to the [LDH COVID-19 Reporting Portal](#).
- If school systems need to be enrolled in the LDH COVID-19 Reporting Portal, information on how to do so can be found in the [LDH School Reporting Guidelines](#).
- Early Care and Education (ECE) programs should report outbreaks to their regional epidemiologist.

K-12 COVID Outbreak Definitions

Core Group Outbreak: at least three student, teacher, or staff cases within specified core group with symptom onset or positive test result within 14 days of each other, AND NO likely known exposure to a case outside of the school setting (e.g., household)

Core group: a core group includes but is not limited to extracurricular activity, classroom, cohort group, before/after school care, etc.

School-wide outbreak: 5% or more students, teachers, and staff with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 over a 14-day period.

Outbreak conclusion: an outbreak is considered over when there have been 14 days without new cases

K-12 COVID Outbreak Guidance

Use the below tool for each core group where multiple cases have been identified to determine if you have an outbreak(s).

DETERMINING IF YOU HAVE AN OUTBREAK IN A CORE GROUP		
Question	Response	Interpretation
1. How many cases have been identified in the core group?		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If 3 or more cases, continue to question 2.• If less than 3 cases, this is not an outbreak.
2. Do cases have a symptom onset or positive test result within 14 days of each other?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If no, remove the cases that don't meet this criterion from your case count.
3. Do any of the cases have a known exposure to a case outside of the school setting? (Note: if exposure to another case outside of the school setting is unknown, the case should be counted toward the school-associated outbreak.)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If yes, remove from your case count the cases with exposure outside of the school setting.
4. After removing cases that don't meet the criteria in questions 2 and 3, are there still at least 3 cases in the core group?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If yes, this is a Core group outbreak.• If no, this is not considered a Core group outbreak.

Ready to Achieve! 2022-2023

School System Operations Plan Submission

A school system that receives ARP ESSER funds must make publicly available on its website a **Ready to Achieve! plan** for safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. School systems can meet this requirement for 2022-23 by updating their Ready to Achieve 2021 plans to reflect the [Ready to Achieve 2022-2023 guidance](#).

School systems will [submit a link](#) to their plan to LDOE no later than September 12.

Please contact meredith.mcGovern@la.gov with any questions.



Safer, Smart Schools K-12 Testing Program

FUNDING

- ❖ Stipends for Districts
Option 1: **\$55k**
Option 2: **\$40K**
- ❖ Stipends for Schools
Option 1: **\$30k**
Option 2: **\$14.5k**
- ❖ Incentives for participants

SUPPORT

- ❖ COVID-19 School Coordinator support and training
- ❖ Patient portal and reporting software
- ❖ Testing team services that include everything needed to test at schools
- ❖ Customer Service hotline
- ❖ Technical support

MATERIALS

- ❖ Covid-19 tests
- ❖ Testing team services that include everything needed to test at schools
- ❖ Easy-to-use participant consent and registration
- ❖ Communications and marketing materials



Timeline

Summer 2022

Closeout school year 2021-2022
SSS program

July & August 2022

Presentations to LDH Regional Medical Directors and
Administrators, parish school boards, schools,
Superintendents

Registration opens for districts/schools/individuals

Delivery of testing materials and trainings

April 2023 - June 2023

Begin & Complete Grant Closeout

Phase 1: Fall/Winter 2022

Routine check-ins for
support and
troubleshooting

*First incentive period
begins

*First
Incentive Payment
Distribution
(December 2022)

Phase 2: January 2023

Routine check-ins
continue

*Second incentive period
begins

*Second
Incentive Payment
Distribution
(May 2023)

SSS Project Completion: Summer 2023



Safer, Smart Schools K-12 Testing Program

LDH Safer, Smarter Schools K-12 COVID-19 Testing Registration

Questions?

Please email k-12covidtesting@la.gov





Questions about Ready to Achieve
Guidelines or plan submission?

email meredith.mcGovern@la.gov