

Parents and Staff,

Beginning January 4 through the end of February, the Utah Department of Health is offering free COVID-19 rapid antigen testing in communities across the state. Some of the mobile testing will be done in school facilities.

Areas are chosen based on high positivity rates, lower numbers of tests conducted, untreated wastewater sampling, and other surveillance data.

Anyone can get tested at these free testing clinics, even if they do not have symptoms of COVID-19. Anyone who wants to be tested can register online at <https://coronavirus.utah.gov/utah-covid-19-testing-locations/>. However, we also encourage anyone who might have any symptoms, even mild ones, to come and get tested. Online registration is encouraged to cut down on any potential delays at the testing site. If you can't register online, you will be able to register at the site. Identification is required.

The goal of these testing clinics is to more quickly identify people who are currently infectious with COVID-19, including those who may not even know they are infected because they don't have symptoms. Identifying these individuals will help slow the spread of infection in the community.

Test results will be emailed to those tested within 30-60 minutes after being tested.

Rapid antigen tests are less sensitive than PCR tests. Antigen tests work best when someone has symptoms of COVID-19 or when a person has high amounts of virus in their body. If an individual has symptoms and tests negative on the rapid antigen test or an individual doesn't have symptoms and tests positive on the rapid antigen test, they will be referred for a follow up, confirmation PCR test.

Testing teams will consist of Utah Department of Health staff, deployed National Guard members, and TestUtah contracted teams.