



# SOS

Safely Opening Schools



**In Collaboration with the California  
Department of Public Health &  
Various Funders**

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MD,MPH**
- **CDPH Lead: Dr. Carol Glaser, MD,  
DVM**
- **Anthony Iton, MD, JD,MPH  
The California Endowment**

# Goal

To help CA School Districts safely reopen.

# Commitment to Racial and Health Equity



SOS is committed to **advancing racial equity in health and education across California**, and has focused on districts where reopening is most urgent, including:

- Schools serving large numbers of children of essential workers;
- Schools serving predominantly Black, Latino, and Indigenous communities hardest hit by COVID-19;
- Schools actively open to on-site students requiring special education and other special needs, and serving those students not doing well with remote learning.

# Three Pillars for a Successful Antigen Testing Program

- Test Kit Access
- Training
- Data Platform



# Test Kit Access Abbott Binax Now Rapid tests

- Available for free from CDPH from Federal purchase
- May need to purchase later in year or State may purchase
- FDA approved for use under a “CLIA waiver” with ordering physician



- Free Online Training Platform Available next week from SOS
- See website [www.safelyopeningschools.org](http://www.safelyopeningschools.org) for information on getting started and training resources
- Free on-site and remote training available from SOS and CDPH

Training

## Data Platform for Testing

Needed for consent, roster uploads, registering for test, entering results, mandatory reporting, reporting results to tested individuals or their parents

## **Abbott Binax Now twice weekly testing of all people on-site**

- Train sites remotely + on-site for 8 week pilot
- Start testing Week 1-2 with staff and teachers, Wk. 3 with students
- Build learning collaborative
- Support internal spread in districts and scaling across districts
- Evaluate



# 11 Participating Districts

School District	County	# of Participating Schools	Est. # of Participating Students
Compton Unified*	Los Angeles	21	14,534
Rosemead*	Los Angeles	5	2,394
Pomona	Los Angeles	26	12,596
Planada Elem*	Merced	1	588
Weaver Union*	Merced	3	1,978
McSwain Union Elem*	Merced	2	859
La Honda Pescadero*	San Mateo	2	200
Redwood City*	San Mateo	12	6,904
Ravenswood City*	San Mateo	4	1,164
Oakland Unified*	Alameda	2 (56 total)	TBD
Fresno Unified	Fresno	TBD (64 total)	TBD

\* Initial on-site team trained, internal replication still needed

## Are schools the safest place in town? Data so far:

- Only 0.2% testing positive in pilot
- 0.4% in schools testing statewide

## Costs to schools

- **Staff Time** – most schools are using existing staff members, both health and non health to staff testing
- **Data platform:** Non-pilot schools must pay for the data platform Primary (onboarding fee of \$5,000-\$25,000 based on size + per test fee of approximately \$1)
- **Other platforms can be free but less complete support and functions**
- **Administrative set-up time:**, Training, executing agreements, consents, communications with staff and parents

# Self-swabbing

- [Watch it now](#)

Questions ?

[www.safelyopeningschools.org](http://www.safelyopeningschools.org)



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Training

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Thank you!

Support: The California Endowment

# Comments from Coronado school district staff

*"Thanks for bringing this test to us - it's so much more convenient than having to leave site and wait in a long line at the PCR testing sites"*

*"How often will the district be making this available, can we come more often - it's so reassuring to be able to know that I can get tested more often and that my coworkers will be tested more often as well. I feel safe."*

*"As a result of the positive tests, we were able to immediately take action to ask them to quarantine and minimize additional exposure to students and staff. "*

*"The antigen tests proved to be useful compared to PCR based tests as we were able to perform immediate contact tracing and identify additional positive cases"*

## Progress To- Date

- **Test administration:** Worked with CDPH to clarify guidance that *“school personnel who are caring for students under their responsibility”* may administer the rapid antigen test.
- **Statewide school CLIA waiver available:** Working closely with Dr. Glaser and the Labs team at CDPH we identified and shared problems for schools with CDPH CLIA Waiver system and software, CDPH subsequently adopted a statewide CLIA Waiver you can use with certain rules
- **Technology:** Partnered and signed MSA with best-in-class technology system Primary
- **Training Materials:** Coordinated with CDPH and Primary to develop a suite of resources and training materials for School Districts, being field tested this week by SOS. CDPH also building training capacity.
- **Union buy-in** – Worked with several LA districts and Fresno Unified that actively involved their unions, including in one case taking participation to vote by teacher’s union