**ROUTINE COVID SAFETY CHECK  
Parent Toolkit – FAQ**

## Why are routine COVID safety checks important?

1. Keep Kids and Staff Safe: catch cases before they spread to other students and staff
2. Keep our Schools Open: prevent further time away from in-person learning and friends by knowing whether it’s COVID, cold, or flu
3. Stop the Spread: prevent infecting another member of your household or community

## What is it?

* Swab: a short, non-invasive nasal swab in the lower nostril of the nose. This is NOT the long, invasive swab. It’s child-tested, and it is so easy even a kindergartener can do it!
* Saliva: a small saliva sample that is spit into an individual tube

## Who Oversees the process?

The school nurse oversees the process in a school. Your district has chosen if they are doing a nose swab or a saliva sample. If swabbing, additional trained individuals may help observe a student swabbing their nose and those who need support. This minimizes disruptions to learning time. If providing saliva, this can be done at home or at school (your school will tell you what to do)

## Will it be accurate?

Yes! Many parents have this question. For both swabs and saliva, schools have successfully implemented it with kindergarteners and pre-K. The new tests make it fast and simple. There is an adult observer present to support students.

## Is there a Video that I can Watch to See a COVID Safety Check in Action?

Yes! Here are three videos you can watch if using the swabbing method:

* **Boston Public Schools** ([English](https://youtu.be/HwLspzW8EeI) | [**Español**](https://youtu.be/3MQk17uNF4g) **|** [**العربية**](https://youtu.be/19QPzJ0zSGU) **|** [**Cabo-Verdiano**](https://youtu.be/4li_m6CcY0Y) **|** [**中文**](https://youtu.be/nSpoIP6v-sg) **|** [**Français**](https://youtu.be/DMNynsabrCM) **|** [**Kreyòl Ayisyen**](https://youtu.be/W08gbgReNcs) **|** [**Português**](https://youtu.be/Zcp2ug3strA) **|** [**Soomaali**](https://youtu.be/Q_85xvF99lE) **|** [**Tiếng Việt**](https://youtu.be/lqOwmpsvHhE)**)**
* [BPS COVID Testing for Elementary School](https://cic-health.hubspotpagebuilder.com/share/hubspotvideo/45114319277)
* [How to Swab - by a Second Grader](https://youtu.be/fJML8xBEKGk)

## How Frequent are Routine Safety Checks?

In most schools, everyone will test once per week.

## What happens with the Results?

Results will take 24-48 hours. You will not be notified if your child is negative. No news is good news. You will only be notified if there is a positive case.

## Who participates?

Everyone should participate! Both unvaccinated and vaccinated staff and students are highly encouraged to sign up. The more who sign up, the safer our students and staff will be.