

FAQ's Regarding Covid Testing of Spring Athletes

Where are the tests coming from? The tests are shipped to the Kent ISD and picked up by local schools as needed.

What kind of test is it? Abbott Labs BinaxNOW Antigen test. See Binax NOW information sheet ([Link](#))

Who pays for these tests? The test are provided free of charge to schools from the State of Michigan.

Will the school get a new batch weekly? Weekly or bi-weekly.

If not, what is the shelf life of the tests? Tests have an expiration date that is printed on the outside of each box of test kits. The test kits have a six-month shelf life if stored between thirty-six (36) and eighty-six (86) degrees Fahrenheit.

Who is going to administer the tests? Testing will be administered by Lowell district staff. They have received training on administering these specific Covid rapid tests.

How is the test administered? Each athlete gently swabs the inside of their nose and hands the stick to the person administering the test. Unlike a nasopharyngeal swab that requires the healthcare provider to insert the swab in the upper nasal cavity, these samples are taken by a nasal swab in the lower nasal cavity.

How quickly do you get results? 15 minutes

Are the results trustworthy and accurate? During the previous testing period for Lowell student-athletes over numerous testing periods, we had one positive test that was confirmed by a PCR test. On March 26th, an OK White school collected data from 31 schools in the OK Conference. At that time there were 69 positive test results recorded from these same tests while testing winter athletes. 67 of those tests were confirmed positive by a follow-up PCR test. While we are unable to provide data on the specificity of these tests, the data collected does support the sensitivity statistics provide by Binax:

- sensitivity (true positive rate) of 97.1%
- specificity (true negative rate) of 98.5%.

Sources: <https://cen.acs.org/analytical-chemistry/diagnostics/COVID-19-antigen-assay-set/98/i34>
<https://dam.abbott.com/en-us/homepage/coronavirus/20-386051-ARDX-BinaxNOW-NAVICA-Infographic-v8.pdf>

Are the coaches and assistants being tested as well? Coaches and assistants are not required to test. Coaches and assistants are required to wear masks at all times and must follow the Covid mitigation methods described in the MDHHS Guide to Athletics and MHSAA return to play guidelines.

What if one player tests positive? Athletes who test positive with an antigen test should isolate immediately and obtain a RT-PCR test within 48 hours. Unless the athlete tests negative on a RT-PCR test within a 48 hour period from the original positive antigen test, they must isolate and may not return to team play or practices for the duration of their infectious period as determined by current CDC guidance (URL: bit.ly/2TBf0Xq).

Athletes (symptomatic or asymptomatic) who test positive on a RT-PCR test must isolate for 10 days from date of first positive test (if asymptomatic) or as determined by current CDC guidance (URL: bit.ly/2TBf0Xq) (if symptomatic). They may not return to team play or practices for the duration of their infectious period and should work with the local health department on the date of return to school and participation.

If an athlete tests positive does the entire team need to be quarantined? Not necessarily. The LHS Covid Response Team will follow protocol for contact tracing (including affected school contacts outside of the athletic team). Teams and individuals must adhere with local health department or MDHHS guidance for contact tracing, case investigation or outbreak investigation.

Why is the testing on Sunday afternoon/evening? The Sunday afternoon/evening time for Rapid testing student-athletes would eliminate contact tracing in the classroom as it is after 48 hours of possible contact.

If a student is vaccinated, do they have to test? This is unknown at this time as there has been no guidance provided to schools on this question.