



BEST FOR ALL

We will set all students on a path to success.

ELC Grant I Webinar & Q&A Session

Melisa Fuhrmeister | Data & Fiscal Coordinator

Division of Student & Family Supports | September 2021

Best for All Strategic Plan Overview



ACADEMICS: All Tennessee students will have access to a high-quality education... *by learning to read and reading to learn with high-quality materials.*



STUDENT READINESS: Tennessee schools will be equipped to serve the academic and non-academic needs of all students... *by developing robust career pathway opportunities and connecting students to real-time support.*



EDUCATORS: Tennessee will set a new path for the education profession... *by becoming a teacher for free.*





Agenda



- Welcome | Introductions
- Background & Purpose
- Types of COVID-19 Tests
- Testing Strategies
- Budgets | Finance
- Q&A Session



Welcome | Introductions



TDOE Team

Division of Student & Family Supports:

- Melisa Fuhrmeister, Data & Fiscal Coordinator: Melisa.Fuhrmeister@tn.gov
- Dr. Danielle LeSure, Assistant Commissioner: Danielle.LeSure@tn.gov
- Kristi Steel, Director of Mental Health: Kristi.Steel@tn.gov
- Noel Blackmire, Assistant (ELC reporting contact for non-public schools): Noel.M.Blackmire2@tn.gov

Division of District Operations:

- Amanda Johnson, School Nurse Coordinator: Amanda.Johnson@tn.gov



TDOE Health & Wellbeing Regional Consultants

- East: Allison Rutherford
- First: Kira Harrell
- Mid Cumberland: Britlyn Duncan
- Northwest: Jaime Grammer
- South central: Justin Kanjanabout
- Southeast: vacant (contact Stephanie Johnson in the interim)
- Southwest: Stephanie Rozar
- Upper Cumberland: Stephanie Johnson



TDH Team

Communicable and Environmental Diseases and Emergency Preparedness (CEDEP):

- Jennifer Sanchez, Project Manager
- Jessie Smotherman, Grants Manager
- DJ Irving, TDH COVID-19 Testing Project Lead



Background & Purpose



Purpose of the ELC Grant

- Maximize in-person learning days
- Provide support for schools to detect and prevent the transmission of COVID-19 within schools
- Primarily focused on providing needed resources to implement screening testing programs
- Align your approach with CDC recommendations for K-12 schools ([Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools](#))



Benefits of COVID-19 Testing in Schools

- Helps reduce community spread and keeps schools open
- Can help ensure equitable access to tests
- Increases public confidence in schools' reopening plans

“Weekly testing of all students, teachers, and staff can reduce in-school infections by an estimated 50 percent.”

[Rand Corporation and Mathematica Report, commissioned by the Rockefeller Foundation](#)

Types of COVID-19 Tests





Types of COVID-19 Tests Currently Available

	Molecular Tests	Antigen Tests
How is the sample taken?	Nasal or throat swab (most tests); saliva or sputum test (a few tests)	Nasal or throat swab
What does it test?	Diagnose current or recent SARS-CoV-2 infection by detecting viral genetic material (Nucleic acid amplification tests (NAAT), including real-time reverse-transcriptase Polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR))	Diagnose current SARS-CoV-2 infection by detecting viral proteins
How are the results used?	Diagnosis of current disease assists clinicians and helps public health officials identify and recommend isolation for people with active infection in order to minimize COVID-19 transmission.	
Who administers the test?	Nasal or throat swab can be self-collected and/or supervised or collected by a health professional. Test must be performed by trained staff in a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA)-certified laboratory or point-of-care testing site operating under certificate of waiver.	Test must be administered by trained staff associated with a CLIA-certified laboratory or a point-of-care site that has a certificate of waiver.
Other information	Considered the “gold standard” for COVID-19 detection. A few molecular tests have been authorized for and have data supporting use in asymptomatic individuals.	These are best performed within 5-7 days of exposure and/or symptoms. False positive and negative results may occur and confirmation by a nucleic acid 5 amplification technique (NAAT) is often required.
How long to receive results?	Usually 1 to 3 days; 15-90 minutes for some point-of-care platforms	Approximately 15-30 minutes

Testing Strategies



Testing Strategies

- Diagnostic testing
- Screening testing
 - Pooled testing (type of screening testing)



Diagnostic Testing

- Intended to identify occurrence of SARS-CoV-2 infection at the individual level
- Performed when there is a reason to suspect that an individual may be infected, such as having symptoms or suspected recent exposure



Screening Testing

- Intended to identify occurrence at the individual level even if there is no reason to suspect infection—i.e., there is no known exposure and no symptoms.
- Used to identify infected asymptomatic individuals who may be contagious so that measures can be taken to prevent further transmission.
- Requires more frequent testing and shorter lags between test administration and reporting of results.
- When considering which tests to use for screening testing, schools or their testing partners should choose tests that can be reliably supplied and that provide results within 24 hours.



Pooled Testing

- Pooled testing is a type of screening testing strategy.
- Involves mixing several samples from different individuals together in a “batch” or pooled sample, then testing the pooled sample with a diagnostic test.
- Works best when the number of positives is expected to be very low.
- If the pooled test result is positive, each of the samples in the pool will need to be tested individually to determine which samples are positive.
- Allows for faster isolation of cases and quarantine of close contacts.



Grant Reporting Requirements

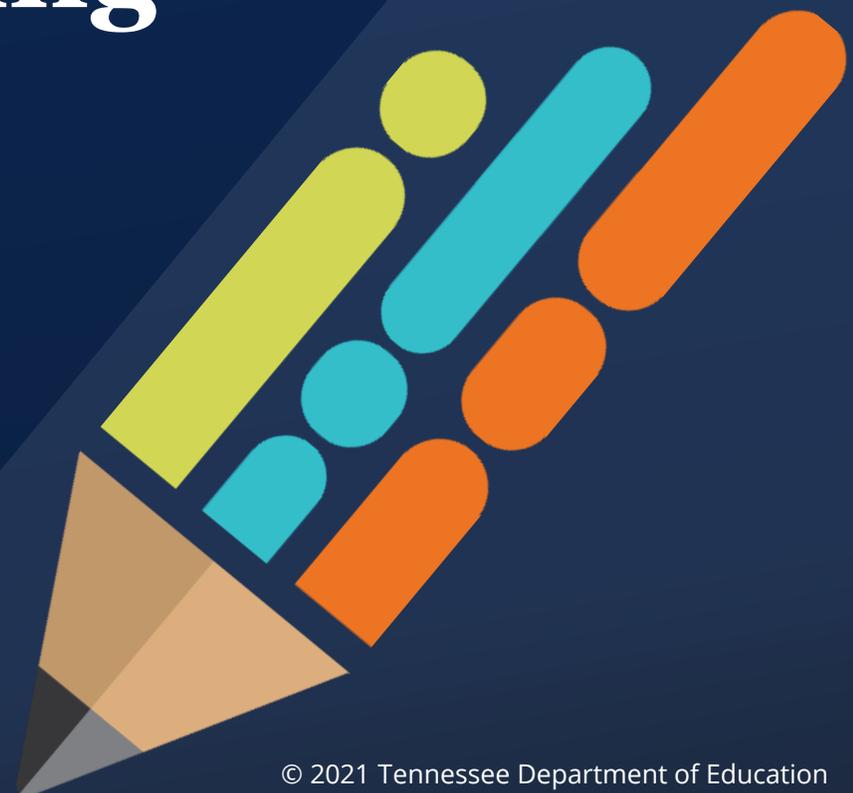


Monthly ELC Reporting Requirements

- Now reporting monthly instead of weekly
- Your Health & Wellbeing Regional Consultant will send you a new form each month to report your data
- Due by the first of each month



Point of Care Test Reporting Guidance



What is Point-of-Care (POC) Testing?

- POC testing includes medical diagnostic testing that occurs at the time and place of patient care.
- Many utilize various technologies, such as molecular amplification tests (NAAT and PCR) and antigen tests.
- NAAT, PCR, and antigen COVID tests are reportable in Tennessee.



When Should We Report?

- If you perform POC testing, you should report within 24 hours of receiving results.
- You need to report POC test results through the online reporting portal if results are not reported to TDH in another manner (electronic laboratory reporting, emergency use template, etc.).



What Should We Report?

- You must report all POC test results in a standardized way.
- If you are not currently reporting via ELR, you are still responsible for sending TDH a standardized lab report of all POC results.
- Report NAAT, PCR, and antigen COVID-19 POC testing results regardless of result (positive, negative, or inconclusive/indeterminate).



How Should We Report POC Testing Results?

Report individual results (positive, negative and inconclusive/indeterminate) to TDH via the POC reporting portal:

1. Register your facility for online reporting via the [COVID POC Reporting Registration site](#). Your facility will not be able to submit data through the POC reporting portal without registering first.
2. Once the facility has been registered, you will receive the link to the reporting portal and your facility-specific information will prepopulate into the reporting portal so that you will not need to re-enter this information with each report

For more information visit: <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/cedep/novel-coronavirus/POC-Reporting-Guidance.pdf>

Registration Site Link: <https://redcap.health.tn.gov/redcap/surveys/?s=LJMMMHTJ89>



POC Facilities Sending Out Specimens for Testing at a Reference Lab

- All laboratories that perform diagnostic testing for COVID-19 or who are performing whole genome sequencing on SARS-CoV-2 positive specimens should report results to TDH.
- Laboratories should report within 24 hours of receiving results.

For more information visit: <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/cedep/novel-coronavirus/TDH-COVID-Lab-Reporting-Guidance.pdf>



Consent



Obtaining Consent

- Before performing COVID tests on students you must obtain permission from parents/guardians.
 - Parents/guardians of all students should be informed that they may opt out of the voluntary testing program or revoke consent at any time for any reason.
- Educators, staff, and students who are 18 and over must also give consent.
- School districts should determine which method(s) of collecting consent work best for their district and families.
- Follow all local policies regarding obtaining consent.



Best Practices & Tips for Obtaining Consent

- Provide consent forms in multiple languages.
 - Online forms such as Google forms and Microsoft Forms are a great way to quickly and easily collect consent from families and staff.
- Offer phone support for those who need assistance or have questions.
- Having a “due date” can be useful to encourage sign ups prior to starting testing.
 - Clearly communicate that the program can be joined at any time by submitting the consent form.



CLIA Waiver



What is a CLIA Waiver?

- The Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA) is a federal program governed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).
- Its purpose is to establish quality standards for clinical laboratory testing to ensure that patient test results are accurate and reliable.
- In Tennessee, the Office of Health Care Facilities administers the certification of laboratory programs in accordance with CLIA regulations.



How to Apply for CLIA Certificate

- To receive a CLIA certificate for laboratory testing, you must first complete the [CLIA Application for Certification, Form CMS-116](#).
- Once the laboratory has identified a qualified laboratory director and has provided all required information on the CMS-116 application, a CLIA number will be assigned.
- Once the CLIA number has been assigned, the laboratory can begin testing as long as applicable CLIA requirements have been met (e.g., establishing performance specifications).



Tennessee CLIA State Agency

Address:

Division of Health Licensure and Regulation
Office of Health Care Facilities, CLIA Certification
665 Mainstream Drive, 2nd Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

Phone: (615) 741-7023

Fax: (615) 532-2700

Email: CLIA.Health@tn.gov

Website: <https://www.tn.gov/health/clinical-laboratory-improvement-amendments/clia/clia-about.html>



Budgets | Finance



Allowable Costs

- Personnel
- Laboratory equipment
- Collection supplies, test kits, reagents, consumables, and other necessary supplies for existing testing
- PPE
- Hygiene and cleaning supplies
- Hardware and software necessary for:
 - reporting to public health
 - communication and coordination of follow up on positive cases
- Tools that assist in the rapid identification, electronic reporting, monitoring, analysis, and evaluation of control measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19, that may be translatable to other diseases (e.g., GIS software, visualization dashboards, cloud services)



Allowable Costs Continued

- Contracts with academic institutions, private laboratories, and/or commercial/non-commercial healthcare entities, that may provide all or part of the screening testing needs
- Software or systems to assist with laboratory resource management
- Leasing/purchasing vehicles
- Portable high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) fan/filtration systems or other small items that may allow for improved air circulation
- Public health events that include students and other community members and are aimed at providing opportunities for increased detection and prevention of COVID-19.



Allowable Costs Continued

- Program incentives (not to exceed \$25 per instance)
- Wrap-around (e.g., hoteling, food, laundry, mental health services, etc.) services for those who test positive
- Expenses associated with outreach
- Costs associated with transporting individuals to get tested
- Expenses associated with technical assistance to establish school-based screening testing programs
- Screening and diagnostic testing costs
- Testing events that may also involve other mitigation activities to limit the spread of COVID-19



Davis Bacon Act

- Davis Bacon Act requires contractors and subcontractors working on federally-funded contracts (over \$2,000) to pay their wages and benefits no less than what others locally pay their workers for similar projects.
- ELC-funded capital projects would be subject to this act
- For more information: www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/government-contracts/construction



Revenue Code & Subfund Range

- ELC is a federal grant
- Revenue code: 47590
- Subfund range: 940-941



Reimbursement Requests

Here are some key factors for reimbursement requests:

- Can only be done after an application has been approved by TDOE
- The request can only include line items from the approved application
- Only one request can be done at a time – one request per grant per LEA/Organization at a time.
 - Each request needs to be fully executed and completed before the next request can be started.
 - The system is not designed to have multiple requests from the same organization for the same grant submitted at once since the system is checking against what was previously submitted.
- Approved and accepted requests can take 5-7 days to be paid by Edison



ELC Reopening Schools Updated Guidance

- New guidance was developed on 8/2/2021
- Updates to the previously published guidance reflect the current needs of recipients as they implement plans to address COVID-19 during the 2021-22 school year.
- The red font throughout the guidance indicates new or updated content.
- ELC Reopening Schools Updated Guidance:
www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dpei/pdf/guidance-elc-reopening-schools-508.pdf



Q&A Session



Thank you!

Contact:

Melisa Fuhrmeister

Data & Fiscal Coordinator

Division of Student & Family Supports

Melisa.Fuhrmeister@tn.gov | (615) 708-3540

