

Nebraska Schools Reopening Assistance

DHHS Offers Many Ways to Keep Our Schools Open

The NDHHS Division of Public Health supports schools in their efforts to ensure healthy students and to keep schools open in the 2021-2022 school year. This document describes how schools can request assistance.

Supplies

DHHS can provide the following supplies directly to Local Health Departments and/or school districts:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Child-sized masks➤ Tissues/Kleenex➤ Rapid antigen tests (refer to "Testing" section below)➤ HEPA Filter Machines & Replacement HEPA Filters➤ Filters for existing HVAC systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Hand sanitizer➤ Disinfectant wipes➤ School bus metal - alcohol➤ School bus seat/plastics - disinfectant spray
To Order Supplies, contact your local health department (please cc: Andrew.delicata@nebraska.gov) and include the following information in your e-mail:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Your Name & Contact Details➤ Shipping Address & Shipping Contact➤ What you would like to order & How many

** For these, and any additional requests, please check with your Local Health Department as some LHDs will be able to fulfill portions of your request. A list of Local Health Departments can be found here: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/lhd>

Testing

If your school is experiencing an outbreak, you may request assistance with testing. An outbreak is determined by the school in conjunction with the local health department. *If you think you could be experiencing an outbreak, please contact your local health department.* DHHS will send a strike team and arrange for the shipping of specimens to the public health lab. DHHS can also supply rapid antigen tests directly to schools.

CLIA Waiver – If a school is testing onsite rather than obtaining testing through the LHD or through a 3rd party, the school is required to have a CLIA waiver. E-mail for more information: DHHS.AcuteCareFacilities@Nebraska.gov
CLIA Waiver Fact Sheet: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/covid-school-testing-factsheet.pdf>

As an alternative to utilizing DHHS for testing, schools have the option to contact The Battelle Group. Contact Lindsey Rankin at rankinl@testedandprotected.org. Visit www.TestedAndProtected.org for more information.

Training

ICAP will offer a free infection prevention and control (IPC) program assessment for the schools. This is a voluntary non-regulatory assessment that any school can request. Post-assessment ICAP team will provide feedback, guidance and resources for further improvement of the IPC program. Visit: <https://icap.nebraskamed.com/school-health/> or Contact Margaret Deacy at Mdeacy@nebraskamed.com

Thank You!

We know you work hard to keep Nebraska students safe and healthy. As a final thought, check out CDC's new **ELC Reopening Schools webpage**: <https://www.cdc.gov/nceid/dpei/elc/covid-response/index.html>

