



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

Dear School Leader,

Thank you for your steadfast commitment to the health and safety of your school community. As we begin the new school year, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) strongly encourages North Carolina schools to provide school-based COVID-19 testing through the newly expanded [StrongSchoolsNC Testing Program](#).

Key Action Items:

- [Opt-in for the StrongSchoolsNC School COVID-19 Testing Program](#) by August 24.
- [Order your printed "Know Before You Go Back to School" vaccine communications materials.](#)

School-based COVID-19 Testing. Schools are strongly encouraged to implement school-based COVID-19 testing for the 2022-2023 school year through the [StrongSchoolsNC Testing Program](#). Schools will continue to have access to state-contracted testing vendors and rapid antigen tests. Additionally, **schools can order at-home tests** from the state to distribute to students and staff, as needed, or as part of a screening event (e.g., back to school at-home test distribution event). These testing options are provided at no cost to your school.

Back-to-School Vaccine Communication Printed Materials. Free, printed COVID-19 vaccine educational materials are available in English and Spanish for all NC schools. Materials will ship in mid-August for distribution to students, staff, and families. To order your printed materials, please fill out this [print materials ordering form](#).

Please email K12covidtesting@dhhs.nc.gov for more info or go to covid19.ncdhhs.gov/SchoolTesting.