



As part of the Nation's Coronavirus Testing Strategy, the United States Health and Human Services Department has distributed 150 million of the Abbott BinaxNow rapid test kits. The state of Texas has begun receiving its weekly allotment of these tests for utilization in settings that need rapid, low-tech testing. These tools were specifically intended to support our critical infrastructure and surveillance screening in congregate settings, such as a school environment.

The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM), in coordination with the Texas Education Agency (TEA), has been directed to ensure the effective distribution of these kits to Texas school systems to further this national effort. The diverse and independent local control of Texas school systems allows for a wide methodology for using these tools.

As a part of this project, school systems are provided with delivery of the Abbott BinaxNow test kits, personal protective equipment, product training, and support to refill supplies as available. School systems may utilize these tools to enhance or supplement local policy related to the school's operations. These rapid test kits are for the exclusive use and control of the school system upon receipt. This program's only mandate is the required state and federal reporting when the actual test kit is used.

Our goal is to ensure the distribution and use of the Abbott BinaxNow kits are consistent and safe. The proper use, health authority recommendations, and training of these rapid kits are managed under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA) certificate of waiver held by TDEM. The policy and use of these kits are at the discretion of the school system administration.

In this packet, you will have access to the TDEM K-12 School System COVID-19 Testing Support Distribution Plan, access to certified training, required legal reporting processes, and logistical re-supply procedures.

Keep in mind there are limited supplies and potentials for interruption of the supply through the national distribution chain. We will strive to keep local District Testing Coordinators apprised of supply interruptions or changes as this program moves forward.

Feel free to reach out to our TEA partners for guidance and operational support.