

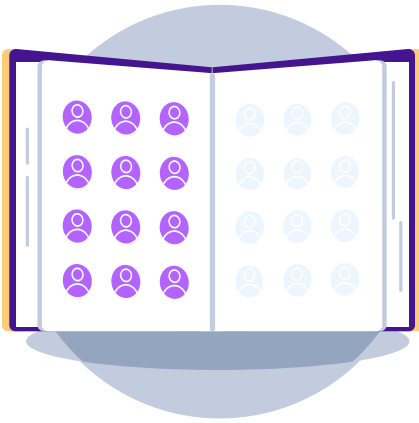
## Why Should Your School Test Routinely?

Even with the availability of COVID-19 vaccines for students 5 and over, testing is still an essential part of the fight against COVID-19 spread. Testing helps identify infected student and staff, even if they show few or no symptoms.

Below is a real-world example of how COVID-19 spread can be dramatically reduced by routinely testing students and staff.

### School A

No COVID-19 testing

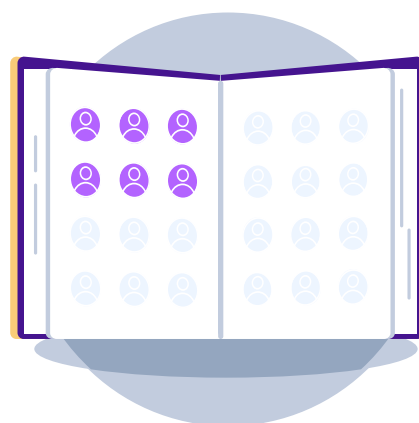


12 of the 24 students were infected

An unvaccinated and occasionally unmasked teacher contracted the COVID-19 virus. Because School A doesn't perform any regular COVID testing, the virus went undetected for several days. By the time the teacher showed symptoms and was removed from the school, over half the students in the classroom were infected.

### School B

COVID-19 testing once a week



6 of the 24 students were infected

An unvaccinated and occasionally unmasked teacher contracted the COVID-19 virus. School B performs weekly COVID testing, so the virus was detected several days earlier than in School A. As a result, the infection rate in School B is half that of School A.

## What We've Learned

Regular testing of students and staff helps identify infections earlier, and can reduce the spread of COVID-19 by as much as 50%.

Example above based on real-world data, plus learnings from Color's COVID-19 [school outbreak modeling tool](#).

## Case Study 1: Positive Effects of Routine Testing in Utah Schools

Between November 2020 and March 2021, the state of Utah established two [high school COVID-19 testing programs](#) so they could safely continue in-person learning and extracurricular activities. Those who tested positive for COVID-19 were required to isolate and close contacts were encouraged to quarantine.

In that timeframe, the use of these routine testing programs allowed the school to participate in 95% of extracurricular competition events and saved around 109,752 total in-person school days throughout 13 schools.



## Case Study 2: California School Suffers Preventable COVID Outbreak

In May 2021, [an unvaccinated teacher attended class](#) while experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. Occasionally, this teacher would remove their mask in order to communicate more clearly with the class. By the time they tested positive for the Delta variant two days later, the virus had spread among the students in the classroom, as well as to other classrooms and among family members. In all, the CDC identified 26 cases of COVID-19 among students and their contacts. Of the students sitting in the front two rows of this teacher's classroom, 80% became infected - none of whom were vaccinated due to their age.

## The Takeaway

In-person learning is critical to student's social, emotional, and educational wellbeing. Routine COVID-19 testing helps identify infections early, protecting students, staff, families and the extended community, and maximizing the amount of time students are able to spend in the classroom.

Color offers a variety of testing options to meet each school district's individual needs. Visit [Color.com/k-12](https://color.com/k-12) for more information.