



Novato Charter School COVID-19 Testing Plan January 1, 2023

This COVID-19 Testing Plan is established and updated as needed to meet requirements of SB 1479, and is posted at <https://novatocharterschool.org/>.

Novato Charter School follows guidance from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and Marin County Public Health around COVID-19 testing. Rapid Antigen Testing remains a key mitigation strategy to detect and curb transmission of COVID-19 in school settings. Keeping students and staff safe and in school remains the top priority.

Novato Charter School is the Lead Educational Agency (LEA) for Novato Charter School. All students and staff are provided free Rapid Antigen Over the Counter (OTC) tests through the support and collaboration of the California Department of Public Health’s K-12 Schools Team and Testing Task Force and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. NUSD aids NCS in testing when needed and receives help/guidance from their Covid Response Coordinator.

COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test Contacts:

Primary Testing Point of Contact: Jill Healy

Secondary Testing Point of Contact: Karina Haedo

Partner: Marin HHS, Public Health Schools and Child Care Team

Education: Staff and students are provided testing guidance and expectations by school site administrators, based on ongoing and updated guidance from the CDPH and Marin Public Health. Each school site has two Public Health Liaisons who attend bi-monthly meetings with the Marin Public Health Schools Team. Updates on all mitigation strategies including testing are discussed in these meetings. For more information on Novato Charter School’s response to Covid, please visit <https://novatocharterschool.org/parents/covid-19/>

Testing Expectation: Students and Staff should test *when COVID-19 symptoms are present, following high-risk activities and/or as recommended by Public Health (i.e. outbreak and exposure testing)*. Marin Public Health provides updated COVID-19 testing information at <https://coronavirus.marinhhs.org/testing>. Parents will also contact the school, jhealy@nUSD.org when a student tests positive for Covid-19.

Access: Tests are available for pickup in the office during open office hours. Additionally, NCS sends tests home before any break with directions for testing upon return to school after a break. Extra tests are sent home when additional testing is recommended by Public Health, such as an outbreak or for CPDH’s return to school testing recommendations following holidays and school breaks.

Reporting and Monitoring: All staff, parents and guardians are required to notify office staff of positive and negative test results through Primary.Health and to email jhealy@nUSD.org when reporting positive cases. Each school will track results and report their total weekly cases and any outbreaks of 5% or more of total school population to the SPOT portal, which will then be communicated to CDPH.