



# Guidance on the Use of COVID-19 Antigen Test Kits

New York State has provided all school districts with antigen test kits. This week, the Ithaca City School District is distributing a COVID-19 antigen test kit to all students and staff. Each kit includes two tests. Outlined below is guidance about **when an at-home COVID-19 test is recommended**.

Test Yourself If...	Timing
You have any <a href="#">COVID-19 symptoms</a>	Immediately <i>A negative antigen test does not rule out COVID-19 infection. A <b>negative PCR (laboratory) test is required for returning to school.</b></i>
You were exposed to someone with COVID-19	At least 5 days after your exposure <b>If you test negative</b> for COVID-19, consider testing again 1 to 2 days after your first test.
You are going to an indoor event or a gathering	Immediately before the gathering, or as close to the time of the event as possible  This is especially important before gathering with <a href="#">individuals at risk of severe disease</a> , <a href="#">older adults</a> , those who are <a href="#">immunocompromised</a> , or people who are not <a href="#">up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines</a> , including children who cannot get vaccinated yet.
You have COVID-19	Toward the end of a five-day isolation period <b>If you test positive</b> , continue isolating until you reach 10 days after your symptoms began. <b>If you test negative</b> , you can stop isolating but should wear a mask around others until day 10.

Source: [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Self-Testing At Home or Anywhere](#)

- **Positive results** from self-tests are highly reliable.
- **Negative results** from self-tests do not rule out SARS-CoV-2 infection. A negative self-test result may not be reliable, especially if you have symptoms associated with COVID-19.
- **Invalid results** from self-tests mean the test did not work properly, and a new test is needed to get an accurate result.

Should your child test positive from a self-administered antigen test, you should:

- [immediately isolate](#) them for 5 days from the positive test result or the onset of symptoms, whichever occurs first;
- [complete and submit this form](#) to report your positive result to the Tompkins County Health; and
- notify your child's school.

If symptoms develop or worsen, contact your healthcare practitioner and seek additional care. Continue to wear a well-fitting mask around others for an additional 5 days following self-isolation.