

# MI Backpack Home Tests

## *An At-Home COVID-19 Testing Pilot Program for K–12 Settings*

Expanding on the MI Safer Schools Testing Program launched by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) in the 2020-2021 school year, MDHHS is piloting a new program to make a limited number of free, at-home COVID antigen tests available to students in Michigan's schools in the 2021-2022 school year. This pilot program offers one more tool—in addition to in-school testing, masking, ventilation, and other strategies—to create a safer environment for students, staff, and families. This is a proof-of-concept pilot to see whether free at-home COVID testing is useful and accepted in a group at elevated risk for COVID-19.

### **What?**

MI Backpack Home Tests is a voluntary program offered by MDHHS for Michigan K–12 students, educators, staff, and their families who want an extra layer of protection against COVID-19. Every person enrolled in the program will receive one at-home COVID-19 test “kit,” which includes 2 at-home tests. MDHHS will provide the kits and educational materials, and schools will distribute the kits to students and staff who choose to enroll. There is no obligation to participate.

### **Who?**

K–12 students, teachers, administrators, paraprofessionals, teaching aides, and non-instructional staff are all eligible to opt into this program through their participating school or district. Participants will need to complete a brief intake survey to enroll.

### **Where?**

Students and staff who enroll in the program will receive **at-home** COVID-19 tests kits distributed at school. Participants will then be able to test their students, themselves, or other family members right at home.

### **When?**

Selected schools will be contacted about their interest in the pilot program starting the week of November 8<sup>th</sup>. Interested schools will be able to sign up to participate in 1 of 3 cohorts, depending on when they want to start. The first cohort of schools will start the MI Backpack Home Test program as early as November 15<sup>th</sup>. The program is intended to last 8 weeks, although participants can use the tests at any time up until the tests expire.

- Week 1: Districts and schools send out information about the program and collect opt-in info and pre-survey; MDHHS ships kits by end of Week 1 or beginning of Week 2.
- Week 2: Districts and schools receive kits and send 1 kit home with each participating student or staff member.
- Weeks 2-8: Parents and families use test kits at home when someone in the home has symptoms or an unmasked exposure to someone else with COVID-19.
- Week 5: MDHHS collects a post-survey asking about if/how tests were used.

- Week 8: MDHHS collects another round of post-survey information (to those who we haven't heard from yet + those who hadn't yet used the tests the first time)

Week Start	Week End	COHORT 1	COHORT 2	COHORT 3
08-Nov	14-Nov			
15-Nov	21-Nov	Week 1		
22-Nov	28-Nov	Week 2		
29-Nov	05-Dec	Week 3	Week 1	
06-Dec	12-Dec	Week 4	Week 2	
13-Dec	19-Dec	Week 5	Week 3	Week 1
20-Dec	26-Dec	Week 6	Week 4	Week 2
27-Dec	02-Jan	Week 7	Week 5	Week 3
03-Jan	09-Jan	Week 8	Week 6	Week 4
10-Jan	16-Jan		Week 7	Week 5
17-Jan	23-Jan		Week 8	Week 6
24-Jan	30-Jan			Week 7
31-Jan	06-Feb			Week 8

### How?

Michigan school districts and schools that are interested in offering this program to their students and staff must agree to the following requirements in order to enroll:

- Identify one point of contact per school and provide corresponding contact information
- Agree to give out information about MI Backpack Home Tests to students and staff and distribute kits to participants (1 kit/participant). Health Resource Advocates or School Liaisons assigned to the school can help distribute tests.
- Answer a survey in Week 5 asking about how the program is going in their district.

### Why?

The state is committed to ensuring that Michigan students and educators are as safe as possible in the classroom to enable in-person learning. Layering prevention measures, like masking, testing, distancing, and ventilation, help create a safer environment for learning and keep kids, staff, and families safer. This pilot program offers one more tool—at-home testing—to help create that environment. More information on COVID-19 and schools can be found at

[www.michigan.gov/schoolCOVIDtest](http://www.michigan.gov/schoolCOVIDtest).