



**Standing Delegation Order
For
COVID-19 Molecular and Antigen Testing**

In support of Governor Greg Abbott's efforts to support on-campus learning, and to minimize the risk to students, staff and faculty in schools through testing for COVID-19, I, John Hellerstedt, M.D., Commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services, issue this standing delegation order for testing in schools.

This standing order authorizes any school participating in the Department of State Health Services (DSHS)/Texas Education Agency (TEA) "ELC Re-opening Schools: Support for Screening Testing and Keeping Schools Operating Safely" (the Grant) grant to administer molecular and antigen tests to detect SARS-CoV-2, consistent with this order and the grant terms. This standing order is issued under my authority as stated in Texas Health & Safety Code, Ch. 81 and 22 Tex. Admin. Code Ch. 193.

Eligibility

- Students, faculty and staff of a Texas K-12 school regardless of symptoms, of a school participating in the Grant, and
- Students, faculty and staff of a preschool or daycare co-located with a school participating in the Grant.

Facility Requirements

- The school, preschool or daycare must be participating in the Grant
- Registered through TEA as a grant participant
- Operate under a CLIA waiver, and
- Operate under guidelines of the grant and the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) requirements of the test being used.



Tester Requirements

- Receive appropriate training to administer the test as defined in EUA requirements.
- Administer the test consistent with that training.
- Obtain appropriate written consent prior to administering the test.
- Collect a specimen for a molecular or antigen test approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or authorized by the FDA through an Emergency Use Authorization.
- Ensure appropriate personal protective equipment is worn, such as gloves, N95 masks and eye protection.
- Follow manufacturer-specific and/or laboratory-specific instructions for administering the test.
- Follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guidelines for performance and processing of antigen tests for SARS-CoV-2.

This delegation order is issued October 22, 2021 and takes effect immediately. This delegation order will remain in effect until the expiration of the Governor's Disaster Declaration or until rescinded by me.

Signed this 2^{2nd} day of October 2021.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Hellerstedt", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and extends to the right of the line.

John Hellerstedt, M.D.
Commissioner of Public Health