

Ocean View School District

Human Resources Department

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding COVID-19 Screening and Testing

1. What agency determined the prioritization guidance for testing?

The Department of Managed Health Care emergency regulation regarding COVID-19 diagnostic testing took effect on July 17, 2020. The regulation classifies COVID-19 testing as medically necessary urgent care for essential workers. The regulation specifies, during the relevant state of emergency, COVID-19 diagnostic testing is a medically necessary basic health care service for all essential workers, as defined, and prevents delays in testing and claims payment related to such individuals.

2. What are the categories established by the Department of Managed Health Care?

The California Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) has expanded COVID testing coverage on an emergency basis in California for DMHC regulated Benefit Plans. There are three (3) mutually exclusive categories:

- Category 1: Enrollee has symptoms of or known/suspected exposure to COVID-19 (see federal laws).
- Category 2: No symptoms or exposure, but enrollee is an "essential worker".
- Category 3: No symptoms or exposure and enrollee is not an "essential worker" (DMHC's emergency regulation).

3. When did these categories become effective?

Category 1 is part of the Federal CARES Act and has been in place since March, 2020. Categories 2 and 3 are New Coverage categories effective July 17, 2020 and goes through May 14, 2021. This ruling does not include: Serological or anti-body testing, this is only for COVID testing to determine active COVID infection.

4. Does an OVSD employee need to contact their health provider prior to scheduling a COVID test?

Per the Department of Managed Health Care all asymptomatic employees whether essential or non-essential workers **MUST** contact their Health Plan before they get a test. Your Health Plan may ask questions to determine if you are an essential worker or not.

OVSD Employees enrolled in Kaiser Health Plan:

OVSD Employees who are enrolled in the Kaiser Health plan **DO NOT** need to contact Kaiser prior to scheduling an appointment for COVID-19 testing.

5. When making a request for COVID testing with UnitedHealthcare what questions will be asked?

OVSD employees must contact UnitedHealthcare's customer service center using the phone number on the back of their ID card. If they do not call the Plan, the Plan per the rule, can deny any testing claim that may come in.

When the enrollee calls UnitedHealthcare's Customer Service center, the Customer Service representative may ask questions to help identify if you are an ESSENTIAL WORKER. If YES, they will direct you to a testing site near your work or residence.

Asymptomatic ESSENTIAL WORKERS can go to one of the UHC contracted sites to get tested. You will be required to pay a copay for diagnostic testing either at the time of service or billed afterward.

6. What if I don't have medical benefits from Ocean View School District?

If you are an OVSD employee that does not receive medical benefits through the District you will need to contact your medical provider to schedule the test before you make the Super Site COVID Testing centers.

7. Will I have to pay for the testing or be charged a co-pay for taking the test?

Per the current plan benefits, only OVSD employees who are enrolled in the UnitedHealthcare medical plan may be charged a Copay for diagnostic testing. OVSD employees who are able to schedule an appointment for COVID-19 PCR testing through their UHC provider and are charged a copay will be reimbursed for their copay. Employees who are billed for the test by UnitedHealthcare should submit the bill to the Human Resources Department for reimbursement.

8. What if my Health Plan is unable to schedule a COVID test for me?

In the event a test appointment cannot be secured by UnitedHealthcare at a contracted testing site within 48 hours for Essential workers the enrollee may seek an appointment with a non-contracted lab/testing site.

9. I have tested positive for COVID-19 recently. Do I need to test again?

According to the CDC:

- For persons previously diagnosed with symptomatic COVID-19 who remain asymptomatic after recovery, retesting is not recommended within 3 months after the date of symptom onset for the initial COVID-19 infection.
- For persons who develop new symptoms consistent with COVID-19 during the 3 months after the date of initial symptom onset, if an alternative etiology cannot be identified by a provider, then the person may warrant retesting. Consultation with infectious disease or infection control experts is recommended, especially in the event symptoms develop within 14 days after close contact with an infected person. Persons being evaluated for reinfection with SARS-CoV-2 should be isolated under recommended precautions while undergoing evaluation. If reinfection is confirmed or remains suspected they should remain under the recommended SARS-CoV-2 isolation until they meet the criteria for discontinuation of precautions – for most persons, this would be 10 days after symptom onset and resolution of fever for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medications, and with improvement of other symptoms.
- For persons who never developed symptoms, the date of first positive viral diagnostic test (PCR or antigen) for SARS-CoV-2 RNA should be used in place of the date of symptom onset.