

# How Districts<sup>1</sup> can Partner with the State of California's Valencia Branch Laboratory to Provide COVID-19 Testing

## Background Information

### What

The State of California has opened the **new Valencia Branch Laboratory (VBL)** with the goal of dramatically increasing daily COVID-19 testing by another 150,000 tests per day with a rapid turnaround time of under 48 hours<sup>2</sup>



The test kits provided are **anterior nasal swabs**, which can be self-administered and are easier to collect<sup>3</sup>

### Who

For **local education agencies** (e.g., districts) that would like to expand their COVID-19 testing efforts, the State of California is providing **test kits, test registration software, test processing, and technical assistance**

### Why

This program aims to make it **easier to start a testing program, ensure timely results** and remove barriers in an organized, cost-effective, efficient manner

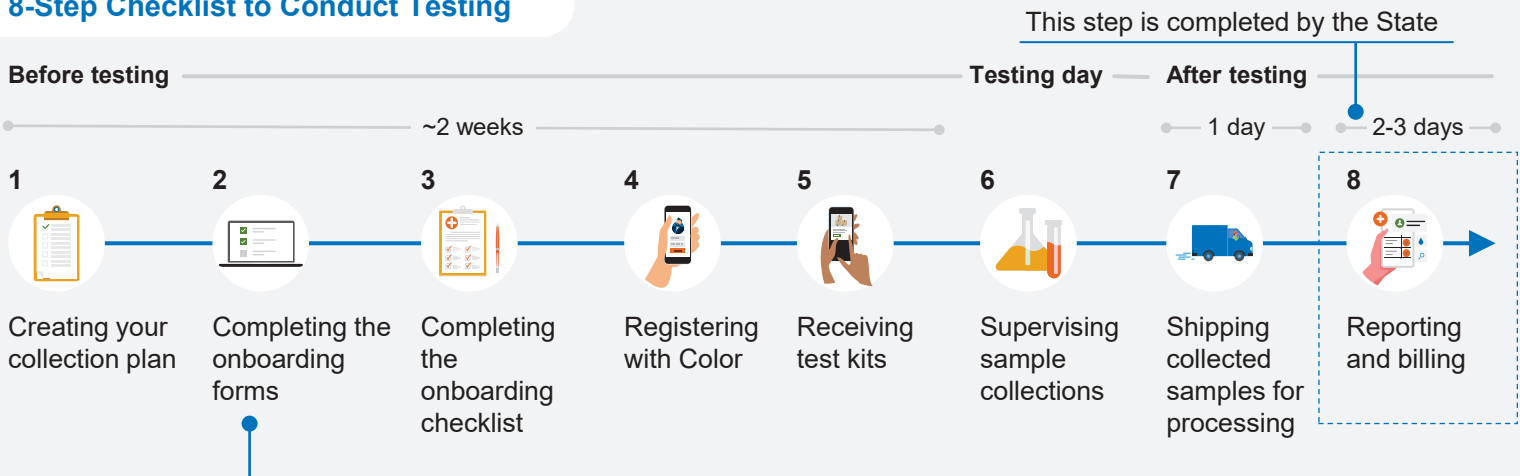
## State Responsibilities

- **Test kits**
- **Test processing** and, as appropriate, recoup costs through a third-party biller
- **Sample processing** in the laboratory
- **Results with a 24-48 hour turnaround goal**
- **Detailed support and instructions** for operating testing sites
- **Patient registration system**, and test result monitoring and notification system

## District Responsibilities

- **Submit request** for required number of test kits
- **Procure PPE and provide physical space** for testing
- **Conduct community outreach** to drive participation in testing
- **Provide staff and manage on-site logistics**, such as patient registration, information collection etc.
- **Supervise self-administered nasal swabs** at testing site
- **Package and coordinate sample transportation**
- **Cover select costs** related to transport, site administration, equipment, and the cost of testing (see Playbook "Billing" section)

## 8-Step Checklist to Conduct Testing



All California districts will receive an onboarding email, which contains the district onboarding form, from the State's partner Color. If this email cannot be located or is not received, please visit [Color's support page](#) and submit a request using the support form.

## Next Steps & Resources

- **Access the Playbook and other resources for districts** [testing.covid19.ca.gov/school-testing](https://testing.covid19.ca.gov/school-testing)
- **Learn more about VBL & the Testing Task Force at** [testing.covid19.ca.gov/valencia-branch-laboratory/](https://testing.covid19.ca.gov/valencia-branch-laboratory/)

### Still have questions?

- Attend an introductory webinar on how to get started by [filling out this form](#)
- Please reach out to the Testing Task Force at [TTFSchoolInquiry@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:TTFSchoolInquiry@cdph.ca.gov)

1. For independent charter or private schools, please refer to the [Playbook](#) to learn about your specific onboarding process.

2. 48-hour turnaround time goal from the time the completed samples arrive at VBL.

3. Per the CDC.

Source: California COVID-19 Testing Task Force, CDC Report "Nasal Specimen Collection for SARS-CoV-2 Diagnostic Testing"

