

# COVID-19 Testing in Schools Common QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

## QUESTION

How will the COVID-19 test feel to my child?

## ANSWER

**The COVID-19 test in schools uses a shallow nasal swab.**

The shallow nasal swabs used in schools are comfortable and most can be performed by students themselves.

## QUESTION

Is the sterilizer ethylene oxide that is used on the nasal swabs safe?

## ANSWER

**The sterilizer, ethylene oxide, is commonly used in the medical industry.**

Ethylene oxide is considered a safe and effective method that ensures the sanitization of medical devices. According to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), ethylene oxide is used to sterilize more than half of medical supplies in the United States. Ethylene oxide has been used for decades and is considered by the FDA to be the only effective sterilizing method that doesn't damage the object being sterilized. It is also used in a variety of industrial applications and everyday consumer products such as laundry detergent and shampoos.

## QUESTION

Is there a residue of ethylene oxide on the COVID-19 nasal swab tests?

## ANSWER

**The sterilizing process leaves no residual trace of ethylene oxide on the nasal swab.**

The process for sterilizing COVID-19 swabs is highly regulated and completely safe. Swabs are sterilized through exposure to ethylene oxide gas for a short, controlled amount of time. The sterilization process is assessed and evaluated from beginning to end to ensure the swab meets the rigorous safety standards of the FDA. There is no residual trace of ethylene oxide on the nasal swab when it is packaged.

## QUESTION

Are there long-term health effects associated with using ethylene oxide?

## ANSWER

**Ethylene oxide-sterilized nasal swabs are safe and will not cause long-term health problems such as cancer.**

Performing swab tests sterilized with ethylene oxide will not cause long-term health effects. Because there is no trace of ethylene oxide left on the nasal swabs once it is packaged, you won't be exposed, nor will your health be at risk. It is safe for you or your child to be tested regularly with the shallow nasal swab.