

# COVID Waiver FAQ

Last Updated 2/25/2021

## Supplement to [COVID Waiver Guidance](#)

### **Q: When should we use the COV code and when should we use the EMW code?**

**A:** Use COV when a family makes a continuous choice not to test because of an ongoing and continued concern about exposure to COVID-19.

Use EMW when a student is unable to test because of an infection to COVID-19 or is quarantined for an extended time for possible exposure to COVID-19 and is unable to make up the test. Normal EMW forms and approval are not required for EMW related to COVID-19.

### **Q: Can the COVID Waiver apply to ELPA21?**

**A:** Yes, COVID Waiver (COV) is a valid reason for not testing in spring 2020-21 for ELPA21. Districts do not have access to the COV not tested code (NTC) for ELPA21. (The code could not be added to the system this year). Districts should use the Unable to Test (UTT) code for students that do not take the ELPA21 test because of concern about exposure to COVID.

For the ELPA21, the EMW code should be used in the same way as the guidance describes for all tests. If a student cannot test because of exposure or infection to COVID, then you use the EMW code. See [COVID Waiver Guidance](#).

COV=UTT for ELPA21

### **Q: Can we use the EMW code if a student is infected or quarantined due to COVID on ELPA21?**

**A:** Yes. However, the long window should ensure this coding is rarely used. The long window for NSCAS Assessments also means that this code will be rarely used.

### **Q: Can we use the COVID Waiver for NSCAS Alternate Assessment?**

**A:** Yes, you can use the COV code for the NSCAS Alternate, NSCAS ACT, NSCAS Phase 1 Pilot, and NSCAS Science Field tests.

### **Q: On the sample spreadsheet, a column is listed as “alternate testing location”. Are we required to have an alternate testing location?**

**A:** No, the spreadsheet is just a sample schools may adapt to fit their needs. Schools will make decisions based on what can reasonably be offered as safe testing environments.

### **Q: Will DACs turn in documentation?**

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**A:** No. Districts will need to track students the best way they see fit. Keep it on file, but the NDE will not ask for the specific documentation unless there is a problem. Our samples are for district use but not required. Districts only need to report the reason not tested. During post-test clean-up, districts will need to verify and sign-off that students are coded correctly through a signature on an assurance statement. Good documentation will help do this task confidently and quickly.

**Q: If we have a homebound student (with homebound services), but the family will not allow a proctor to administer the test, do we still use the COV code?**

**A:** Yes