

# Dickinson ISD

## COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Testing

### **Who is eligible for the free tests?**

Dickinson ISD employees and students who attend at least one class on campus are eligible for free tests. Full-time remote instruction students are not eligible to receive the tests. Family members of employees and students are not eligible. The goal of the state program is to proactively prevent the spread of COVID-19 at school by making free testing available for employees and on-campus students. The tests are provided through a partnership between Dickinson ISD, the Texas Division of Emergency Management, and the Texas Education Agency.

### **Why is Dickinson ISD offering the tests?**

The district offers the tests as a convenient and free solution to employees and families who want to know if they or their student is positive or negative. Free testing is one of many safeguards in place to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and help schools remain safe for face-to-face instruction on campus.

### **What type of tests are given?**

This testing program uses BinaxNOW tests, which provide results in 15 minutes and are administered using a nasal swab in the front area of the nostril. BinaxNOW tests are a rapid antigen test that detects the presence of protein antigens from the SARS-CoV-2 virus. The manufacturer evaluated its tests and found BinaxNOW has a sensitivity (true positive rate) of 97.1 percent and specificity (true negative rate) of 98.5 percent.

### **Are tests required?**

All testing is voluntary. No employee or student will ever be required to take a test.

### **Who will be administering the tests?**

Only a certified test administrator is authorized to conduct the rapid ABBOTT - BinaxNOW test procedure. Dickinson ISD has two test administrators who completed the required training and submitted all testing results as required by state and federal law. One is a Physician's Assistant and the other is a Registered Nurse.

### **How long does the test take?**

After the test is obtained using a sterile swab, the [ABBOTT - BinaxNOW Card](#) takes 15 minutes to return a result.

### **How can employees or students be tested?**

Testing will be done by appointment only. Call the Gator Hope Clinic at 281/229-6257 to schedule an appointment.

### **When will the test be administered?**

Phase One (Employees only) will begin Dec. 7.

Phase Two (Employees and Students) will begin Jan. 11.

Tests will be administered Monday – Friday during regular school hours.

### **Do I need an appointment?**

Yes. Tests will only be administered by appointment.

### **What forms are required to test?**

A consent form will be required for employees and all students.

### **How will I receive results?**

Employees and parents will receive a text and email with the results. The results will also be shared with

appropriate campus and district staff and public agencies so that contact tracing and notifications can occur. The identity of the student is available only to appropriate parties.

**When does the testing program begin?**

The district will begin accepting employee COVID-19 Testing Request Forms on Monday, December 7. Testing will begin for students on Monday, January 11.

**If I test (+) positive, do I have COVID-19?**

This test is only an indicator of the presence of the COVID-19 virus. A formal medical evaluation and certified laboratory verification would be necessary to indicate a confirmed infection. Presumptive-positive results also do not rule out bacterial infection or co-infection not related to COVID-19.

**What are the differences between an antigen, PCR and antibody test?**

- The antigen tests identify the virus by detecting the proteins from the virus.
- The molecular test (RT-PCR) detects the virus's genetic material to see if you have an active coronavirus infection.
- An antibody test looks for antibodies that are made by your immune system in response to a threat.

**Should a student or employee go back to class after testing positive?**

If a student or employee has a positive antigen test, they should immediately go home. This is considered a true positive. If a student or employee then follows up with a negative PCR test, typically it is still recommended that the earlier positive test be considered accurate (especially if the student is symptomatic or has a known contact). Individual cases should be discussed with your local health department.

**Should a student or staff member go back to the classroom after testing negative?**

Given the known chance of false negatives in rapid antigen tests, an individual that is symptomatic or has a known exposure to a person confirmed to have COVID-19, (for example, another student in the classroom) may not return to school/work with a negative antigen test and must continue to isolate/quarantine. CDC recommends confirming negative antigen test results with an RT-PCR COVID-19 test within two days of the initial antigen testing.

**Could this rapid test be used to shorten the 14-day quarantine period, or does the 14-day quarantine with close contact still stand as outlined by CDC regardless of the result of the test?**

A negative test cannot be used to shorten the stay-at-home period for an asymptomatic close contact, because that stay-at-home period covers the incubation period of the virus. During the entire 14-day quarantine period, an individual could potentially test negative and not have symptoms but still be incubating COVID-19.