



AN EARLY COLLEGE DISTRICT

BROWNSVILLE

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

COVID-19 Rapid Testing Overview



Dr. Rene Gutierrez, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Nellie Cantu, Deputy Superintendent

TEA



Brownsville ISD

Rapid Testing Overview

- Brownsville ISD is among a group of Texas school districts that submitted an opt-in application to the Texas Education Agency through Gov. Greg Abbott's office to conduct mass COVID-19 rapid testing of its employees and students.
- Brownsville ISD is expected to receive a **monthly allocation** of about 16,000 COVID-19 rapid tests called BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card. It is an antigen test, which is designed to detect proteins from the virus that causes COVID-19. Positive results from these rapid tests are highly accurate and can help limit the spread of COVID-19 among families and communities.
- The monthly allocation is based upon availability of tests provided by our federal partners and the participation rate of school systems.

Brownsville ISD




Restock Inventory

Resupply

- Resupplying tests will take place once supplies have reached 25% of initial inventory provided.
- Resupply will be based on the following month's allotment, recalculated based on regional health data.
- Resupply other than for the next month's allocation is not available due to constrained supplies from our federal partners.

Three State Agencies

Collaboration and Responsibilities

Agency	Responsibilities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Provide insight and direction about the needs and context of Texas schools, including working towards students learning on campus▪ Serve as a resource to ISDs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Collect aggregate data on testing in schools, in collaboration with TEA▪ In collaboration with local public health entities, collect specific case data on positive cases
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Manage and serve as point of contact for logistics of testing distribution and inventory management.▪ Provide training for test administrators

REMINDER: TEA has a Four-Part Framework included in the [SY 20-21 Public Health Planning Guidance](#) document

Purpose of Testing

**Reduce
COVID Cases**

TEA's Public Health Guidance Framework

Provide Notice

Prevent

Respond

Mitigate

By conducting tests on campus, school systems can:

- Use tests as an additional screening tool in some cases to **prevent** the virus from coming on campus
- Provide another source of testing to which the school can quickly **respond** by removing the individual before they can spread COVID on campus

Testing Responsibilities

Administrators
Dr. Nellie Cantu
Dustin Garza

Preparation



- Complete training
- Plan test locations and flow of individuals
- Plan materials required to conduct testing
- Set up testing stations

1

During Testing



- Ensure that every student under 18 has a parental authorization form to conduct COVID-19 testing
- Ensure proper PPE
- Conduct Binax Now testing for screening and targeted testing

2



Post-Test



- Ensure all PPE and testing materials are disposed of properly
- Ensure results of testing are reported
- Maintain testing materials and PPE inventory
- Notify testing coordinator if there is a shortage or testing materials or PPE

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Brownsville ISD

First Responders

Test Administrators*

The following RNs and LVNs will serve on the district team that will travel to campuses and departments as the need arises:

	Name	Position	Campus
1	Judy Alvear	LVN	Besteiro MS
2	Shirley Blanco	RN	Pace HS
3	Alonso Guerrero	RN	Vela MS
4	Rosa Pones	Health Services	Administrator
5	Reyna Rivera	RN	Burns EL
6	Lucy Rodriguez	RN	Oliveira MS

*Test administrators do not need to be medically trained. They must complete and earn a passing score on the required training and report all results through txrapidtest.org.



About the Tests

Abbott Labs BinaxNOW Tests



How long does it take to get test results?

15 Minutes



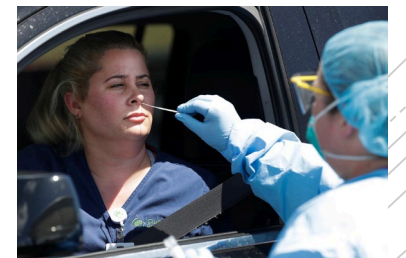
How is the test administered?

Tests are administered with a [nasal swab](#) (to the shallow front of the nostrils only). Adults will be able to self-administer the test with the oversight of a test administrator.



How are the tests packaged?

Tests are the size of a credit card and contain a nasal swab and reagent testing solution (one bottle per testing kit). They are packaged 40 to a shoebox-sized kit.



BinaxNOW Test

Accuracy Data

- Abbott Labs evaluated its test in 102 patients who had shown COVID-19 symptoms for fewer than 7 days and compared the results with a PCR test. This analysis showed that BinaxNOW has a:
 - sensitivity (true positive rate) of 97.1%
 - specificity (true negative rate) of 98.5%
- BinaxNOW tests are significantly more accurate than the previous generation of rapid antigen tests.



Definition

Close Contact

Definition of Close Contact

The definition of close contact is evolving with our understanding of COVID-19, and individual scenarios should be determined by an appropriate public health agency. In general, close contact is defined as:

- a) being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); OR
- a) being within 6 feet for a largely uninterrupted or sustained extended contact period throughout the course of a day of approximately 15 minutes; however, additional factors like case/contact masking (i.e., both the infectious individual and the potential close contact have been consistently and properly masked), ventilation, presence of dividers, and case symptomology may affect this determination.

Plan of Action

District Responsibilities



Communication Timeline

November 3 (Tuesday)

- Introduce testing program to school principals prior to broader announcement

November 4 (Wednesday)

- Inform the school board during the Regular Board Meeting

November 5 (Thursday)

- Announce testing program to all school staff via email to all staff.
- Send a mass phone message recording to parents introducing the program
- Provide informational flyer and Parent Consent Form about the testing program to all staff and parents of students
- Post all documents prominently on district and school websites

November 18, 2020

- Revised Flowchart and Verification of Close Contact Form

Plan of Action

Campus 1st Step

Requirement

School systems **must** obtain consent/permission forms for students under 18 years old prior to testing.

Use the Student Consent Form template provided.

Begin to collect Parent Consent Forms for all students to have on file on campus.

[COVID-19 Rapid Test Consent Form](#)

Source: K-12 COVID-19 Testing Project FAQ



Targeted Response

Plan of Action

Who – Not Recommended?

Testing is **optional** and the district may **ONLY** test enrolled, BISD students.

Who should **NOT** get tested?

Brownsville ISD will use a **targeted response approach**. It is *not* recommended to use tests:

1. Immediately prior to exposure to another group that has not been tested (e.g. testing a volleyball team prior to a game)
2. In lieu of implementing other safety protocols (e.g., allowing first grade students who have tested negative to not wear masks)
3. End a close contact stay-at-home before the incubation period has completed (e.g., allowing a teacher who was identified as a close contact to come back after 3 days with a negative test)



Targeted Response

Plan of Action

Who?
BISD
Students

Testing is **optional** and the district may **ONLY** test students attending face to face instruction.

Who will get tested?

Brownsville ISD will use a **targeted response approach**. This means that the tests will be administered when a student is attending face-to-face instruction and is experiencing symptoms or was in close contact with a lab confirmed positive individual. The campus principal or designee will:

1. Submit student information to the campus nurse who then reports it to Ms. Pones.
2. The campus principal or designee will conduct contact tracing to identify the number of individuals who were in close contact.
3. The campus administrator will submit requested information in the link provided during the training.
4. Contact the Public Information Office to request a notification letter
5. Provide notice to all students and staff (TEA, Public Planning Guidance, Sept. 24, 2020)

Plan of Action

Who? Employees

Testing is **optional** and the district may **ONLY** test district employees.

Who will get tested?

Brownsville ISD will use a **targeted response approach**. This means that the tests will be administered when an employee is experiencing symptoms or was in close contact with a lab confirmed positive individual. The campus principal or designee will:

1. Submit staff information to the Human Resources (HR) Office.
2. The campus principal or designee will conduct contact tracing to identify the number of individuals who were in close contact.
3. The campus administrator will send requested information in the link provided to administration.
4. Contact the Public Information Office to request a notification letter
5. Provide notice to all students and staff (TEA, Public Planning Guidance, Sept. 24, 2020)

Plan of Action

When?

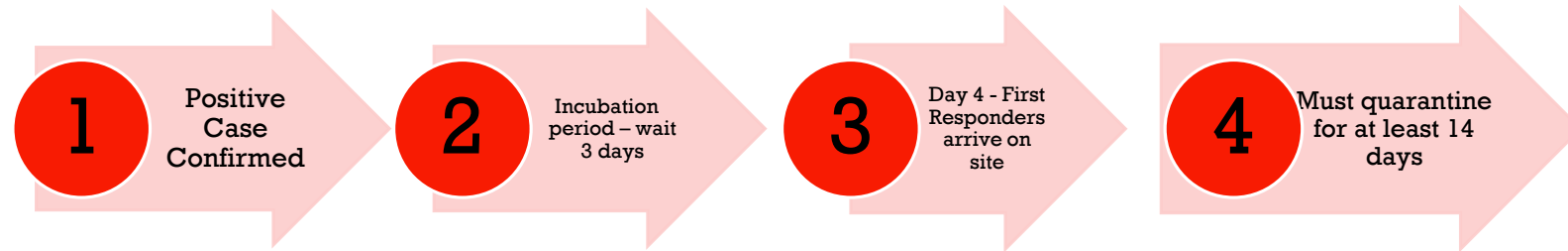
When will tests be administered?

- When a positive case is confirmed, the incubation time (wait time) is three days.
- Within this time frame, Dr. N. Cantu and/or D. Garza will contact the campus principal or designee to identify a location and stage the area for testing.
- On the 4th day, the Brownsville ISD **First Responders** arrive on site to complete testing.

How many days do I stay home for a POSITIVE result?

Plan of Action

Timeline if POSITIVE



Plan of Action

Where?

Where will the tests be administered?

Rapid test coordinators will identify:

- 1) The location will vary from one campus/department to another
- 1) Can accommodate, with social distancing, the number of individuals that will be tested.
- 2) With good ventilation,
- 3) Enough space to set up 3 tables

Plan of Action

How?

How will the test be administered?

- ✓ Tests are administered with a nasal swab (to the shallow front of the nostrils only).
- ✓ Adults, if they choose, will be able to self-administer the test with the oversight of a test administrator.
- ✓ After the test is obtained using a sterile swab, the BinaxNow Card takes 15 minutes to return a result.

Plan of Action

Staging

What staging is needed at the campus/department to prepare for test administration?

- 1) Can accommodate, with social distancing, the number of individuals that will be tested.
- 2) With good ventilation,
- 3) Enough space to set up 3 tables
- 4) Wash station, if possible

Plan of Action

Positive Case

What happens if the test is POSITIVE?

- A text message and email will be autogenerated to notify the results to the individual.
- The test is only an indicator of the presence of COVID-19 virus.
- A formal medical evaluation and certified laboratory verification would be necessary to indicate a confirmed infection.
- If a child or staff member (if student age 18 or older) tests positive for the virus, the child/staff member will be moved to a room away from other students and staff until parents can pick him/her up.
- We ask that parents keep their child home until the infection period has ended (typically, after symptoms improve and at least 11 days from the date symptoms first appear) and the child is no longer contagious.
- **A doctor's release is required to return to campus/district.**

What happens if the test is NEGATIVE?

Plan of Action

Negative Case

- If the child's test results are negative, the virus was not found in the specimen tested and the child may continue to attend school without interruption.
- In a small number of cases, tests sometimes produce incorrect results – showing negative results (called “false negatives”) in people who have COVID-19 or showing positive results (called “false positives”) in people who don't have COVID-19.
- If a child tests negative but has symptoms of COVID-19, or if a parent has concerns about your child's exposure to COVID-19, the parent should call their child's doctor, a licensed medical authority, or the local health department.

Plan of Action

Questions

