

PALOS 118 COVID TESTING FAQ

What is the SHIELD-IL test?

Your child can receive a free screening test for the COVID-19 virus conducted by collecting saliva (spit). The SHIELD Test is laboratory PCR test. Tests samples will be collected by a district employed school nurse and will require extremely limited classroom disruption.

Why should my child participate in the SHIELD-IL testing program?

Early detection of possible illness is an effective way to reduce the risk of transmission in school.

How often will your child be tested using SHIELD?

Students will be tested once per week.

When will the weekly screenings begin?

The weekly screenings cannot begin until we have students with consent forms on file. The earliest that screenings will begin is middle of September.

How will I know if my child tests positive?

A limited amount of school district testing personnel will receive results of your child's test and will notify parents of any positive result.

What should I do when I receive my child's test results?

If your child's test results are positive, your child will be required to quarantine per the IDPH guidance. Please contact your child's doctor immediately to review the test results and discuss next steps. If your child tests negative but has symptoms of COVID-19, or if you have concerns about your child's exposure to COVID-19, you should call your child's doctor.

Who will receive my child's test results?

In addition to the school district testing personnel receiving your child's test results, the Illinois Department of Public Health ("IDPH") will also receive your child's test results, consistent with IDPH guidance and the Illinois Control of Communicable Disease Code.

How is the SHIELD test saliva specimen disposed of after testing?

Test specimens are safely and permanently destroyed once testing is completed by being placed in biohazard containers, securely stored, and incinerated by hazardous materials personnel.

What is the BINAX test?

The BINAX test is a shallow nasal swab antigen test. This test is a rapid response test with results in around 20 minutes. This is not an invasive deep nasal swab that you may be familiar with from some testing locations.

Will BINAX testing always be available?

The district is reliant on Cook County Department of Public Health to make available the BINAX testing kits.

Why should I consent to BINAX testing?

Students with COVID symptoms in school would have to be excluded from school until a symptoms subside AND a negative COVID test could be received (or alternative diagnosis). By

having rapid testing available in school students with COVID symptoms could quickly produce a test result and if negative then could return to class when the symptoms subside.

What is Test to Stay?

If a student is close contact to COVID positive individual within 3ft for more than 15 minutes, or is a close contact outside of school they can participate in Test to Stay protocols. This would mean that they would receive a COVID test on the first, third, fifth and seventh day after notification of close contact. If the tests remain negative the student would not have to be excluded from school. Students with a household member that is positive cannot participate in test to stay and must be excluded from school.