

What is the test?

The SHIELD Illinois test is a free diagnostic test for the COVID-19 virus conducted by collecting saliva (spit) samples. The test was developed by the University of Illinois and has been made available at no charge to all schools in Illinois by the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Public Health.

How often will my child be tested?

We are arranging for our testing partner to test students at least 1 time per week beginning in mid-September 2021.

Can I opt my child out of testing?

The program is opt-in only. Students will not be included unless we receive a [consent form](#). That being said, testing is required for students participating in school-sponsored sports. Student athletes who do not receive testing consent will not be permitted to participate in these athletic activities.

How will I know if my child tests positive?

You will receive access to your child's test results via an online platform which we will separately send you information about in future correspondence. Our school district will also receive results of your child's test and will notify you separately of any positive result.

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

If your child's test results are positive, please contact your child's doctor immediately to review the test results and discuss next steps. You may not send your child back to school without a note from your child's doctor that indicates your child is no longer positive for the COVID-19 virus.

If your child's test results are negative, this means that the COVID-19 virus was not detected in your child's saliva (spit).

Tests sometimes produce incorrect negative results called "false negatives" in people who have COVID-19. 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 you receiving your child's test results, the school district and 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.