

SHIELD Illinois Testing Program
Students
Frequently Asked Questions

What is SHIELD testing?

SHIELD testing is a saliva-based PCR test created by the University of Illinois. The test consists of depositing (spitting) a sample of saliva into a tube. The sample is sent out for analysis to test for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes the COVID-19 virus. Note: Samples collected are not used for research purposes and are disposed of after results are confirmed. To learn more about the SHIELD test, visit: <https://shieldillinois.com/>.

Who is eligible to test?

All students and staff are eligible to opt-in to the SHIELD test program regardless of vaccination status. However, SHIELD testing was developed and implemented state-wide primarily for unvaccinated students and staff.

Is the test mandatory?

SHIELD testing is not mandatory. This is an opt-in program. By default your student will be opted-out unless you submit a consent form to opt-in.

Why should my child participate in this program?

The SHIELD testing program helps mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our schools and community by testing asymptomatic individuals who may have unknowingly contracted the virus.

How often will the test occur?

SHIELD testing will occur weekly, beginning October 11. After opting-in, a schedule will be developed at the building level and you will be assigned a recurring appointment date and time.

How will testing be done?

There will be a designated area for SHIELD testing at each of the four schools (Haber at CLS) and you will be assigned a time to test. Participating students will show their student ID, provide a saliva sample in a tube and deposit the tube in the designated location.

Who will administer the test?

A third party will facilitate testing in all four school buildings.

Will I have to test in front of students and staff?

There will be a designated area for SHIELD testing at each school and you will be assigned a time to test. It's likely that you will be in line with and may test in front of students and/or staff.

Why does the test have to happen at school?

Testing must take place at school to ensure proper screening procedures are followed to obtain valid results.

What happens if my SHIELD test is scheduled during a class period?

Vice principals will make every effort to schedule your student's test during a "free period," (lunch, study hall, etc.) however, if that is not possible you will be excused from class at your designated time.

What protocols need to be followed in preparation for testing?

Individuals must refrain from eating or drinking for approximately one hour before testing; eating/drinking too close to testing may produce an invalid sample or inconclusive result. As testing will only take place once per week, it is incredibly important that these directions are followed.

When will results be available?

Samples will be picked up on the day of the test by a courier and transported to a CLIA-certified SHIELD Illinois lab. Results are generally available within 12-24 hours.

How will I get my results?

You will only be notified if the results are positive. You will be contacted by a school nurse or administrator. If the test is negative, you will ***not*** be contacted.

Who has access to the SHIELD testing results?

The school nurse and designated administrators only have access to SHIELD testing results.

How much does the test cost?

SHIELD testing is free for the school district, staff and students.

How do I enroll in the SHIELD program?

Only individuals who opt-in to the program will be eligible. By default students will be opted-out. Please complete this [FORM](#) by Wednesday, October 6 at 3:00 p.m. if you would like your student to opt-in to SHIELD testing.

If my student had COVID-19 in the last 90 days should I enroll?

No, you should enroll your student approximately one week before your student's 90 days expires so that your student can be added to the system.

Can I consent to SHIELD testing at a later date?

Yes, you can consent at a later date. Complete this [FORM](#) and submit it to sendform@d155.org.