

# D20 COVID-19 Testing Program 2021-2022



# Why Implement a Testing Program?

- Our goal is to help keep our learning environment safe, so that our students and staff can ***Stay Healthy and Stay in School!***
- DuPage County continues to be in **HIGH TRANSMISSION** level
- We know that it has been very challenging for many families when **symptomatic students** are sent home and asked to get a test to rule out COVID-19. This is likely to continue and grow during the flu season.
- We want to keep our students and staff engaged in **in-person learning** throughout the school year.
- **Free, Optional Testing Program** will allow us to:
  - ✓ Rule-out COVID-19 illness quickly, conveniently and at no charge
  - ✓ Reduce time out of school for symptomatic students and staff, as well as keep their healthy siblings in school
  - ✓ Identify asymptomatic positive cases to protect our students, staff, family and community
  - ✓ Stop an outbreak before it happens
  - ✓ Provide a convenient onsite testing option for visitors/volunteers

# Overview

- District 20 has partnered with **Northshore Clinical Labs** to provide a comprehensive COVID-19 testing program including testing supplies, medical and administrative staff for weekly testing, training for D20 staff to perform onsite diagnostic testing, process test specimens quickly in their local lab, and manage the secure registration and clinical portal for the district.
- **Participation in the testing program is COMPLETELY OPTIONAL and is a parent/guardian decision.**
  - ✓ **Opt-In Registration** for families and staff starts next week using secure and convenient online form. We request that parents **complete registration by 11/10** to allow us to plan for resources, staffing, and scheduling for testing to begin in November
  - ✓ **Open Registration** will allow for opt-in on a *rolling basis*
  - ✓ **Immediate Registration** will be available at school offices if your child becomes sick and you would like to opt-in at that time
- **Testing is FREE for everyone**
  - ✓ Registration process will ask for insurance information, but there will be **no cost** for you (no co-pay, not affect deductible). Full cost of testing will also be covered 100% for those who are uninsured or opt not to provide insurance information

# As-Needed Symptomatic Testing

- **Free, Fast & Convenient Diagnostic Testing**
  - ✓ Quick onsite testing in school nurse's office to quickly identify whether your child's symptoms are related to COVID-19
  - ✓ Immediate opt-in at school office using a paper registration form
  - ✓ Siblings can stay in school if you opt-in to this program for your sick child pending the test results
  - ✓ Eliminates sometimes lengthy wait for outside lab results
- **RT-PCR test** will be conducted using gentle swab of inner-cheek. Results will be typically be available 24 hours after lab receipt of the specimen.
- **Results will be communicated to you by the school nurse, with instructions about when your child can return to school**
  - ✓ If the results are **negative**, your child will be able to return to school as soon as fever-free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication and there has been no vomiting or diarrhea for 48 hours
  - ✓ If the results are **positive**, your child will be required to remain at home and engage in asynchronous remote learning for 10 calendar days

# Weekly Screening Testing

- **Free, Fast & Convenient Screening Testing**
  - ✓ Weekly screening to monitor your child's health as it relates to COVID
  - ✓ Identify asymptomatic positive cases in our schools
  - ✓ Eliminates sometimes lengthy wait for outside lab results
  - ✓ Students weekly testing will be during school hours. Staff testing will be before or after school
- **RT-PCR test** will be conducted by Northshore Labs using gentle swab of inner-cheek and results will typically be available 24 hours after lab receipt of the specimen.
- **Communication of Results**
  - ✓ “No news is good news” which means that you will **not receive notice if your child is negative.** Your child can remain in school.
  - ✓ **You will be contacted by phone by district or school staff if your test results are positive.** Your child will be required to remain at home and engage in asynchronous remote learning for 10 calendar days. Contact tracing will be conducted and any unvaccinated or symptomatic close contacts will be required to quarantine.
  - ✓ **Optional Patient Portal** is available on Northshore Clinical Lab's website <https://northshoreclinical.com/>

# Outbreak Testing

- It is possible that a **COVID-19 Outbreak** could occur based on the number of positive cases in a cohort, classroom, grade level, school or even the entire district. This decision will be made in collaboration with the DuPage County Health Department.
- If an outbreak occurs, the identified group would be transitioned to an **adaptive pause** for in-person learning and begin synchronous (“live”) remote instruction from home (similar to last year) for a specified number of days.
- Strongly recommend an **outbreak testing schedule** for the identified group and screening testing would be offered for students and staff during the adaptive pause. Testing would be similar to the weekly screening testing, but with drive-thru testing to keep our buildings safe.

# Quarantine Testing

- **Test-to-Stay Program** is **not currently recommended** by the DuPage County Health Department. However, we are planning ahead for our district community so that if and when the program is recommended for us, we can easily implement this testing.
  - ✓ **Reduce or eliminate the quarantine requirement** for asymptomatic, unvaccinated individuals who are identified as close contacts to a positive case
  - ✓ **Rapid testing** would be conducted using a gentle nasal swab in the front of the nostril (not the deep nasal swab) on Days 1, 3, 5 and 7 in the nurse's office
    - If the test results continue produce a **negative result**, the student will remain in school
    - If any of the tests produce a **positive result** or the student exhibits **symptoms**, the student would be sent home for 10 calendar days

# Visitor or Volunteer Testing

- **Free, Rapid, Onsite Testing** will be available to visitors or volunteers who opt-in and are subject to the current State Vaccination or Testing Mandate
- **Asymptomatic Visitors/Volunteers** can enter the school if they provide:
  1. Proof that they are **fully vaccinated** for COVID-19, OR
  2. Documentation of a **negative COVID-19 test** result taken within 7 days, OR
  3. Opt-in for an **Onsite Rapid Antigen COVID-19 Test**
    - ✓ Collection of specimen using a gentle anterior nasal swab
    - ✓ Results will be provided verbally in approximately 10-15 minutes
    - ✓ If results are negative, the visitor will be allowed into school
    - ✓ If results are positive or COVID symptoms are present, the visitor will not be allowed into school at that time



# NEXT STEPS

- This presentation will be shared with families and staff tomorrow
- Detailed information and instructions will be sent to families and staff next week to begin the registration process
  - **Opt-in to Testing by Online Registration** *opens next week*
  - **Open Registration** so that families can opt-in on a rolling basis
  - **As-Needed Immediate Registration** available in school office if your student becomes ill and you would like to take advantage of the free, fast and convenient onsite testing
- We will continue to closely monitor school metrics and notify families and staff of positive cases on **D20 COVID-19 Dashboard** on our website (Return to Learn tab)
- **Questions** should be sent to [info@esd20.org](mailto:info@esd20.org) or contact your school nurse

**Staff Testing**

**Begins 11/8 (tentative)**

**Student Testing**

**Begins 11/15 (tentative)**