



North East Independent School District

10333 Broadway, San Antonio, Texas, 78217 • (210)356-9244

November 20, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In North East ISD, we are committed to doing all we can to keep students and staff healthy and safe. With this goal in mind, we are pleased to share that we will be taking part in a statewide program offering rapid COVID-19 tests for use in schools. This program will allow NEISD to provide convenient, safe testing free of charge to people experiencing symptoms which may be related to COVID-19.

What COVID-19 tests are used in this program?

This program uses [BinaxNOW tests](#), which provide results in 15 minutes and are administered using a nasal swab taken from the front area of the nostrils. These tests have been shown to be highly accurate, with accuracy rates of 97-98% for symptomatic individuals.

Who can be tested?

NEISD will make these tests available to any student or employee who is experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19. Students must have signed parental consent submitted at the time of testing.

How will testing be accessed?

A Test Pass will be needed to obtain a rapid COVID-19 test at the District's testing location. Your child's school nurse will be able to provide you with a Test Pass. If your child is sent home from school with symptoms, the school nurse will give you the pass when you pick your child up from school. If your child is experiencing symptoms at home and you would like for him/her to be tested, please do NOT send him/her to campus. Instead, call the school nurse who will be able to email a pass to you or send a pass for your child directly to the testing location.

How does my child get tested?

Parents may take their child to Piper Bass Memorial Student Center, located at 12002 Jones Maltsberger Rd, San Antonio, TX 78216. Tests will be performed Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. You and your child will be able to remain in your car the entire time. A trained test administrator will perform a nasal swab to obtain a sample for testing. A cotton-tipped applicator will be placed in the front half of your child's nostrils and rotated for several seconds. The sample will be applied to a testing card and the results will be available in 15 minutes. Test administrators will wear full PPE to prevent any transmission of germs.

The test administrator will call you to tell you the results of your child's test. You will also receive a text message and/or email with the test result.

What if the test is positive?

If your child's rapid test is positive, you will receive guidance on how to best care for them at home and community resources if additional care is needed. You will also receive information on when your child may return to school and recommendations for keeping other members of the household healthy.

The results will be shared with the school nurse and with the local health department to allow for public health reporting and contact tracing and to determine the stay-at-home period for individuals who test positive. Additionally, the total number of positive tests per school will be shared with the Texas Department of State Health Services as is required by law.

What if the test is negative?

It is possible for a rapid COVID-19 test to have a false negative result in a small percentage of cases. The recommendation of the CDC and the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD) is that if someone experiencing symptoms has a negative rapid COVID-19 test, the result should be confirmed by performing a molecular (PCR) test. If your child's test at the District testing location is negative, you will receive information on how to obtain a PCR test at locations throughout San Antonio. PCR testing will not be performed at the District testing site. A negative rapid COVID-19 test will not clear a student to return to school. They must receive a negative PCR test, have clearance to return to school from a healthcare provider, or must isolate at home for 10 days from the date their symptoms began.

Who can be tested?

Current North East ISD students and employees experiencing symptoms which may be associated with COVID-19 are eligible for this testing program. Family members who are not NEISD students or employees will not be tested.

Who shouldn't be tested?

Someone who has a positive COVID-19 test can continue to test positive for 90 days following their initial diagnosis. For this reason, if your child has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past three months, they should not be re-tested, as a positive result would likely be a false positive and not indicate a current infection.

What happens next?

Tests are available to all students who are showing symptoms of COVID-19. To participate, parents must obtain a Test Pass from their child's school nurse. The first date testing will be available is Nov. 30, 2020.

If your child is experiencing symptoms and you would like for him/ her to be tested, please do NOT send him/her to campus. Instead, call the school nurse who will be able to email a pass to you or send a pass for your child directly to the testing location.

We are excited to be able to offer this resource to the families in North East ISD.

Sincerely,

Department of Health Services
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(210)356-9244