

SHIELD Testing FAQ

Is SHIELD testing mandatory?

Testing is voluntary. Parents must sign a consent form for their children to be tested.

Why did the district partner with SHIELD for testing?

IDPH entered a partnership with SHIELD Illinois to provide weekly testing to participating schools utilizing the SHIELD Illinois saliva-based RT-PCR testing. Screening tests for SARS-CoV-2 are intended to identify infected persons who are asymptomatic and without known or suspected exposure to SARS-CoV-2. Screening tests are performed to identify persons who may be contagious so that measures can be taken to prevent further transmission. Screening tests can be an effective mitigation strategy, especially in areas with high-to-moderate community transmission.

How often will your child be tested?

In accordance with current Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations as adopted by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), testing will be conducted at least one time per week.

Should my child get tested if they are vaccinated?

SHIELD testing is recommended for non-vaccinated students and staff. Students and staff who are vaccinated may participate in SHIELD testing.

Is it HIPAA compliant?

Yes. Shield Illinois supports a secure HIPAA-compliant information management system for tracking and reporting results.

How does the testing process work?

Students whose parents OPT-IN to SHIELD testing will check-in weekly with collection staff, receive a small vial, then "drool" a small amount of saliva into the vial. The collection staff will then scan the student's QR code and link it with the saliva provided. The vial with the sample is placed in a container which will be transported to the lab and the student returns to class. Watch this video for more information: [SHIELD Information Video](#)

How long does it take to go through the testing process?

The collection process is completed within a few minutes.

Are there any rules to follow prior to being tested?

Students should not eat, drink, or put anything in their mouth one hour prior to taking the SHIELD test. This includes drinking, chewing gum, using mouthwash, etc. Saliva collected must be clear and free of other substances.

Schools will schedule the collection of samples to meet this requirement with as little disruption to the student's day.

How much saliva is needed for a SHIELD test?

Vials are marked to indicate the 1.5 mL needed. The collection staff will support the student during the process.

What does it mean to be operating under Emergency Use Authorization (EUA)?

The test has gone through the rigorous review process of the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) against an extensive set of well-established requirements/parameters. Authorization means that the SHIELD saliva test fulfilled all the requirements of the FDA before being authorized for use in CLIA Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act certified laboratories for COVID testing, specifically during public health emergencies such as the current COVID-19 pandemic.

How much does the test cost?

SHIELD testing is being conducted at no cost to you or Plainfield School District 202.

Where will the testing take place?

The location for testing will vary. The student will be out of the classroom for approximately 5-10 minutes.

How will I know if my child's test results?

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. Plainfield School District 202 will also receive results of your child's test and may/will notify you separately of any positive result. All results are confidential and protected under HIPAA and FERPA.

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. Complete the [Student Contact Tracing Form](#). 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). Your child may continue to attend school.

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 and isolate consistent with the guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Who will receive my child's test results?

In addition to you receiving your child's test results, the Plainfield School District 202, the Illinois Department of Public Health ("IDPH"), and Will or Kendall County Health Department will also receive your child's test results, consistent with IDPH guidance and the Illinois Control of Communicable Disease Code.

Is there anything else being tested for? Drugs, alcohol, etc.?

No. The COVID SHIELD test only targets specific COVID-19 markers and is not able to test for other communicable diseases, substances, or DNA. Once testing is completed, test specimens are safely and permanently destroyed by being placed in biohazard containers, securely stored, and incinerated by hazardous materials personnel.

Are the SHIELD tests able to detect variants? Yes, though it is not able to identify particular variants. Only genetic sequencing can identify specific virus variants.