

SHIELD COVID Testing

Plainfield School District 202 has partnered with the University of Illinois to test students, teachers, and staff members for COVID-19 infection using the University of Illinois' rapid rtPCR test ("SHIELD Test").

This non-invasive COVID-19 test is VOLUNTARY AND FREE to all District 202 students and staff and is at no cost to the district. As you know, Gov. Pritzker's executive order mandates school districts to collect a negative COVID test on a weekly basis from staff members who are not vaccinated. Staff members may choose to select their own testing provider, or they may consent to district SHIELD testing.

If you consent, you will receive a free SHIELD diagnostic test for the COVID-19 virus conducted by collecting saliva (spit). The University of Illinois has engaged Med-Call to facilitate and administer SHIELD testing. Testing will be conducted at least once a week, per the current Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations as adopted by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH).

Why SHIELD testing? IDPH partnered 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 to prevent further transmission. Screening tests can be an effective mitigation strategy, especially in areas with high-to-moderate community transmission.

Test Results and Confidentiality

Staff members who consent to SHIELD testing will receive access to your test results via an online platform (more information coming soon). District 202 will also receive results of your test and may/will notify you separately of any positive result. All results are confidential and protected under HIPAA and FERPA.

IDPH and Will or Kendall County Health Department will also receive your test results, consistent with IDPH guidance and the Illinois Control of Communicable Disease Code.

Consent for Testing

Staff members must complete the [SHIELD COVID Testing Staff Consent Form](#) to participate in the weekly testing. Consent for SHIELD testing is Opt-In, meaning that staff will only be tested if they complete the consent form.

District 202 will begin with SHIELD screening testing only. Once screening testing is running smoothly, we will investigate other testing options including a "Test to Stay" program and symptomatic testing. "Test to Stay" is when an individual is a close contact and participates in SHIELD testing on days 1, 3, 5, 7. If the test results are negative, the individual is not required to quarantine. The additional testing options will only be available to individuals who are signed up for the weekly screening testing.

For additional information visit the intranet SHIELD folder or review the attached FAQ.

Timeline for Testing:

- Consent forms will be available online starting Sept. 6th until September 13th.
- Current target start date for testing is the week of September 27th or later.
- Additional students and staff may consent for the program after the initial roll out, however, any new enrollees will take at least 1 week to be added to the program.