

Dear Parents and Eden Community:

In Eden CISD, we are committed to doing all we can to keep staff and students 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 tests for use in schools. This program will allow us to test both symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals and reduce the risk to our community. This email offers further information on the tests and the testing program. If you have additional questions, please contact me.

What tests are used in this program?

This program uses [BinaxNOW tests](#), which provide results in 15 minutes and are administered using a nasal swab in the front area of the nostril. ***This is not an invasive nasal swab.*** These tests have been shown to be highly accurate, with accuracy rates of 97-98% for symptomatic individuals.

Who will be tested and when?

Our Rapid Testing Plan is on our web site and accessible [here](#). Symptomatic individuals will be tested first, followed by asymptomatic individuals.

In Eden CISD, we will be offering these tests to staff working on campus on a WEEKLY basis. These tests are optional, but we encourage all staff who work on campus to participate in the testing program. Additionally, Eden CISD will test any individual who is experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19.

How will the information from the tests be used?

Staff will receive test results via text within 30 minutes and will also receive a confirmation email within 24 hours. The results will also be shared with the school/district and with the local health department to allow for public health reporting and contact tracing and to determine the stay-at-home period for staff who test positive. Additionally, the total number of positive tests per school will also be shared with the Texas Department of State Health Services as is required by law.

What steps are required to participate in the program?

The staff testing program is available to all staff who work on a campus. To participate, staff must complete this form (attached to email). The first date testing will be available Friday, December 11.

How to get tested:

Please **DO NOT** show up at the testing station without following the steps below.

1. To request testing you MUST send an email with your request to testing@edencisd.net.

2. Include the name of the individual needing testing (this testing is limited to staff and students only), phone number, description of situation; if the individual is a student also include grade and parent information (name and phone number)
3. The testing administrator will call you back as soon as possible; DO NOT go to the testing station unless asked to do so.
4. The testing administrator will let you know if you qualify for testing.
5. The testing administrator will guide you on where to go next to register for COVID Rapid Testing and your appointment date/time.

Thanks for your continued support of our students and staff.



Misty Gandy
Superintendent