

December 16, 2020

Dear La Grange ISD Parents,

In La Grange ISD, 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 COVID-19 rapid tests for use in schools. This program will allow La Grange ISD to test symptomatic individuals—including staff and students-- and reduce the risk to our school community. This email offers further information on the tests and the testing program. If you have additional questions, you can contact [kari.willrich@lagrangeisd.net](mailto:kari.willrich@lagrangeisd.net) of La Grange ISD Health Services.

**What COVID-19 tests are used in this program?**

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

**Who will be tested and when?**

Any student who has completed the parent permission form and is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 after an assessment by nursing staff, will be eligible to be tested. Testing will be done in a private area in the clinic during school hours.

**How will the information from the tests be used?**

If a parent has given permission for La Grange ISD to administer the BinaxNOW test for their child, your child's school will call you to let you know that your student is experiencing symptoms and that they will be administering a BinaxNOW test. The test administrator will also call to share the results after the test has been administered. The parent will also receive a confirmation email or text 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 individuals 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 happens next?**

Tests are available to all students who are showing symptoms of COVID-19. To participate, parents must complete the [online permission form found on the La Grange ISD website](#). The first date testing will be available is January 6, 2021.

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 please call your students campus clinic to discuss a time to have the student tested. This will be conducted as a drive-thru testing.

Thank you for your continued support for La Grange ISD as we continue to maneuver safely through this pandemic.

Sincerely,

William D. Wagner, Superintendent