

## **La Grange ISD Plan for COVID-19 Rapid Testing**

**Goal of Testing:** With guidance from the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM), Center for Disease Control (CDC), Texas Education Agency (TEA), and Fayette County Office of Emergency Management; La Grange ISD will be implementing a phased-in approach to BinaxNOW rapid COVID-19 testing. Rapid antigen based testing will potentially give La Grange ISD the ability to quickly identify and isolate positive individuals before they can transmit the virus to others. In turn, this will help reduce the amount of absences for individuals waiting on test results and help to fast track treatment and quarantine for positive individuals and their close contacts. Participation in BinaxNOW rapid COVID-19 testing is voluntary according to each individual's preference.

Testing coordinator and testing administrator were chosen from guidelines provided by TEA.

These documents are available at the office of William Wagner, Superintendent.

**Testing Program Coordinator (Point of Contact):** Sharon Muzny **Backup:** Kari Willrich, RN

**Test Administrators (Overseer of Testing) :** Kari Willrich, RN, Myra DelaRosa, LVN, Cheryl Pavliska, LVN, Maggie Cartwright, LVN

**Test Days/Time:** 8a-3:30p on school calendar days

### **Phases of La Grange ISD COVID-19 testing:**

**Phase 1:** Rapid COVID-19 testing for symptomatic and asymptomatic staff members only.

**Phase 2:** Rapid COVID-19 testing for symptomatic staff and students. Individuals less than the age of 18 must have parent/guardian permission before testing can be performed.

#### **Phase 1 Protocol: Voluntary Symptomatic Staff Members**

Phase 1 is voluntary testing for symptomatic staff members at La Grange ISD who have been exhibiting symptoms. No one will be required to take a test. They may voluntarily receive the rapid antigen BinaxNOW COVID-19 test after scheduling with the LaGrange ISD Health Office at a time when a test administrator is available. The symptoms must be consistent with the current guidelines from the CDC, Texas Department of State Health Services, and local health authorities. Symptoms are listed below.

1. Sick at Home: If a staff member is sick at home and they want a test, they may call the Health Office and schedule this test. We will offer a drive up to the school and perform the test outside to reduce the risk of exposure to others. Test administrators will be provided PPE to reduce the risk of exposure.

2. Sick at School: If a staff member gets sick while at school, they will be asked to immediately go to the isolation room and may volunteer to receive a test. If they choose not to test or wish to go home, they shall do so immediately. This must be done quickly to reduce the spread of the virus.
  - **If the test is negative**, the staff member should still follow-up with their physician to rule out COVID or receive an alternative diagnosis. They may also be required to go home until criteria for return is met.
  - **If the test is positive**, the staff member will be required to stay home for 10 days from symptom onset, 24 hours fever free without fever reducing medications *and* have improvement of symptoms. They will also be encouraged to call their physician to let them know.

### **Symptoms of COVID:**

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

### **Phase 2 Protocol: Voluntary Symptomatic Students**

Phase 2 is voluntary testing of symptomatic students at La Grange ISD who have been exhibiting symptoms for 7 days or less. The symptoms must be consistent with the current guidelines from the CDC and TDSHS. No student will be required to take the test and all students must have parent permission prior to having the test performed. Parent permission slips will be available online, in the health office and will be sent home with information about the test. If the form is filled out in advance, the parents will still be notified prior to any testing.

- **If the test is negative**, the symptomatic student will be sent home following symptomatic protocol. The student should still follow-up with their physician to rule out COVID or receive an alternative diagnosis.
- **If the test is positive**, the student will be required to stay home for 10 days from symptoms onset, be 24 hours fever free without fever reducing medication, and have improvement of symptoms. They will also be encouraged to call their physician to let them know.

### **Testing after exposure**

La Grange ISD will not test individuals after exposure to COVID-19. Testing will take place if an individual begins to show symptoms after primary exposure and meets the criteria to be tested for COVID-19.

#### Degree of Exposure

- **Primary** - Those who have been in direct exposure with a positive tested COVID individual.
  - Direct exposure is defined as having been within 6 feet of an individual testing positive for 15 minutes or greater without both parties wearing a mask and within 2 days of when the positive individual was showing symptoms or tested positive in cases that are asymptomatic.
- **Secondary** - Those who have been exposed to a primary individual
- **Tertiary** - Those who have been exposed to a secondary individual

La Grange ISD plans to implement each phase as deemed appropriate over the course of the next few months. We want to address and educate our staff and community about the type of testing, the science behind it and the recommendations and policies La Grange ISD has put in place as directed by CDC, TDEM and TEA.

*All* test results will be submitted to the DSHS and TDEM as required.