

Carthage ISD Student/Employee Information for Optional COVID-19 Testing

To: Parents and Community of Carthage ISD
From: Jim Dunlap, Interim Superintendent of Schools

Our number one priority is the safety and security of all students and staff. In the current health crisis, it is the intention of this school district to take every step possible to limit the spread of Covid 19.

Beginning next week, we are adding a voluntary K-12 COVID-19 testing program for students and employees who have symptoms of COVID-19 illness or have had close contact with a positive COVID-19 individual. This program is authorized for use in a school setting by the Texas Education Agency and the Texas Department of Health and only trained medical professionals are authorized to administer the test. Only students and staff of Carthage ISD are eligible to receive this free testing.

There is no cost for the test, and we will only test children under the age of 18 with consent of parents. If you are willing to provide permission for us to administer this test on your child (staff member only or student age 18 or older), all you need to do is fill out the COVID-19 consent form. Students 18 or over may provide their own consent. Any student under the age of 18 must have a parent present while the test is being performed. Students over the age of 18 are not required to have parental permission.

What is the test?

CISD will use the free BinaxNOW rapid test for the COVID-19 virus provided to schools by the federal government.

How are test samples collected?

Collecting a specimen for testing involves using a swab, similar to a Q-Tip, placed inside the tip of the nose. A CISD campus nurse who has been trained to use this test will collect or supervise self-collection of the specimen. The test results will be read in 15 minutes and be available to parents immediately. This program is entirely optional, and we hope you choose to have the test to keep all our children and staff as healthy & safe as possible.

What should I do when I receive the test results?

If the test is positive for the virus, the student will be moved to a room away from other students and staff until the parent/guardian can pick him/her up. Staff will immediately be sent home to quarantine. We ask that all individuals testing positive stay home until the infection period has ended. The school nurse will share the return to school date. If

the test results are negative, the virus was not found in the specimen tested, and the individual may continue to attend school or be sent home following normal illness protocols. Please be aware in a small number of cases, tests sometimes produce incorrect results – showing negative results (called “false negatives”) in people who have COVID-19 or showing positive results (called “false positives”) in people who don’t have COVID-19. If you have any concerns about the testing or your exposure to COVID-19, it is recommended you to contact your physician.

This step is another in a series of measures we have taken to minimize the spread of this pandemic. But numbers show that incidents of the disease continue to rise. The tests are being offered in addition to existing safety protocols such as mask-wearing, social distancing, handwashing and disinfection of surfaces.

Known COVID-19 Symptoms:

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Feeling feverish or temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting

This list does not include all possible symptoms.

Use the links below for Test Site Instructions, Consent Form, and Screening QR Code.

[Test Site Instructions](#)

[Consent Form](#)

[Screening QR Code](#)

Disclaimer:

While Carthage ISD realizes precautions will be taken for the safety of students, please understand that neither the test administrator nor Carthage ISD nor any of its trustees, officers, employees, or organization sponsors are liable for any accident or injuries that may occur to your child or yourself (if staff member or student age 18 or older), as a result of agreeing to the test.