



# Triad Community Unit School District #2

Leigh Lewis, Superintendent  
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## COVID-19 Screening at Triad CUSD #2

Triad CUSD #2 is pleased to be partnered with Shield IL and the University of Illinois and provide access to saliva-based screening for students, teachers, and staff members for COVID-19 infection during the 2021-22 school year. This notice provides additional information about the program to allow informed consent for your child to participate in the screening program.

### **WHAT IS SHIELD TESTING?**

SHIELD is an innovative, saliva-based test created by the University of Illinois. The test is a non-invasive, saliva-based collection that is self-administered at each supervised school site. This screening targets specific COVID (PCR) markers and can be used to detect the presence of COVID for individuals who are displaying symptoms or are asymptomatic.

### **HOW OFTEN WILL TESTING OCCUR?**

Our plan has made arrangements for Shield IL to test in each building at least 1 time per week.

### **HOW MUCH DOES THE TEST COST?**

It is free for students and staff. The District receives the SHIELD IL screening service free through the State of Illinois and does not receive any funding as a result of this using this testing program or the number of students who participate.

### **WHO IS DOING THE TESTING?**

Shield IL assigns personnel to the district to supervise and ensure proper steps are being followed during the testing implementation, collection of samples, and transport to a CLIA-certified lab partner of Shield IL. Our lab partner has been assigned as MedCall Health Care.

### **WHEN WILL RESULTS BE AVAILABLE?**

Saliva samples are collected, transported, and analyzed by a CLIA-certified lab partner, and results are provided in less than a 24 hour period.

### **HOW WILL I GET MY RESULTS?**

If the test is negative, you will not hear from the school district.

If the test is positive, a school nurse or administrator will call the positive student's parent/guardian. Please contact your child's doctor immediately to review the test results and discuss the next steps. Schools will need to obtain a note from the child's doctor that indicates your child is no longer positive for the COVID-19 virus to return to school.

### **WILL MY CHILD'S PEDIATRICIAN GET A COPY OF THE RESULTS?**

The school district will not send a copy of your child's test results to their pediatrician. Per state protocols, IDPH automatically receives notice of a positive case.



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## **WHY DOES THE TESTING HAVE TO HAPPEN AT SCHOOL? WHY NOT AT HOME?**

Testing must take place in school due to Shield IL/CLIA protocols and to ensure that test-takers are not eating or drinking prior to testing.

## **WHY CAN'T WE EAT OR DRINK ONE HOUR PRIOR TO TESTING?**

The test developers say that doing so may provide an invalid sample or inconclusive result.

## **WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF THE SHIELD IL SALVIA-BASED TEST IN SCHOOLS?**

- The test is a PCR-based confirmation of asymptomatic COVID-19 infection.
- Identify infected people (or before the development of symptoms) that are able to transmit the virus to others and limit the number of students who are quarantined from school.
- Repeated weekly to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the school and prevent loss of instructional time with classroom outbreaks.
- It is non-invasive and supports a self-administrated collection procedure.
- Helps your child's healthcare provider make a timely, informed decision about your child's plan of care.
- Provide peace of mind for families and have students attend school in person.

## **IS SHIELD TESTING MANDATORY FOR STUDENTS?**

No, the Board has determined that participation in testing is one of a layer of prevention strategies to ensure that our schools remain in-person by assisting in identifying asymptomatic cases and preventing outbreaks. Parents have the opportunity to elect to participate in the testing program.

# KEY FACTS ABOUT THE COVIDSHIELD TEST

## IS COVIDSHIELD A DIAGNOSTIC TEST?

- Yes, **covidSHIELD** is classified by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) as an **in vitro diagnostic test** for use in a screening or surveillance testing capacity.
- The FDA's **Emergency Use Authorization (EUA)** for covidSHIELD states that it should be used for identification of SARS-CoV-2 RNA and that positive test results are indicative of SARS-CoV-2 infection.
- The covidSHIELD test targets specific COVID-19 markers and is not able to test for other communicable disease, substances, or DNA.
- Once testing is completed, Samples are permanently destroyed by being placed in biohazard containers, securely stored, and incinerated by hazardous materials personnel.
- The EUA authorizes covidSHIELD to be used for people who are displaying symptoms or people who are asymptomatic.
- In a recent clinical study, **covidSHIELD achieved a sensitivity of 96% and a specificity of 99%**, meaning it is a highly accurate test for the presence of SARS-CoV-2.

## IS COVIDSHIELD A PCR TEST?

- Yes, **covidSHIELD is a PCR test**, the gold standard of tests for detecting SARS-CoV-2.
- covidSHIELD is a real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (**RT-PCR**) test, as are all PCR tests for SARS-CoV-2.

## WHY TEST NOW THAT VACCINES ARE AVAILABLE?

- Herd immunity isn't likely to happen in 2021
- Even though vaccines are recommended, no vaccine is 100% effective
- Children under 12 aren't able to get vaccinated yet
- The CDC recommends that anyone with signs or symptoms of COVID-19 get tested, regardless of vaccination status.

## WHAT WILL COVIDSHIELD TESTING IN MY SCHOOL LOOK LIKE?

- Each school decides whether testing is optional or mandatory, and provides/collects consent forms as needed
- SHIELD and point-of-contact person will monitor/report testing results to students, teachers, staff, and parents/guardians
- Testing will be done once or twice per week and takes each student approximately 3-5 minutes to provide a sample
- Results are provided within 24 hours of samples reaching SHIELD labs

## CAN COVIDSHIELD REDUCE STUDENTS' TIME IN QUARANTINE?

- Schools participating in the IDPH School Testing Program may use a modified definition of close contacts for classroom settings.
- Such schools may use a definition for classroom close contacts as those who come within 3 feet or less of a COVID-19 case for a cumulative time of 15 minutes or more within a 24-hour period.