

## **Rains ISD Plan for Voluntary 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 NETHealth; Rains ISD will be implementing BinaxNOW rapid COVID-19 testing. Rapid antigen based testing will potentially give Rains 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.

**Testing Program Coordinator (Point of Contact):** Trinity Edwards, RN,BSN

**Test Administrators (Overseer of Testing) :** TBD

### **COVID-19 testing:**

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

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

Rains ISD will offer voluntary testing for symptomatic staff members at Rains ISD. No one will be required to take a test. They may voluntarily receive the rapid antigen BinaxNOW COVID-19 test after scheduling with the Rains ISD Director of Health Services at a time when a test administrator is available. The symptoms must be consistent with the current guidelines from the CDC. 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 Director of Health Services and schedule this test. We will offer a drive up to 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 may 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.

- If the test is positive, the staff member will be required to stay home for 10 days once symptoms begin to improve. They will also be encouraged to call their physician to let them know.

## **Symptoms of COVID: (list from CDC)**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

- 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

## **Protocol: Voluntary Symptomatic Students**

Rains ISD will offer voluntary testing of symptomatic students at Rains ISD. The symptoms must be consistent with the current guidelines from the CDC. No student will be required to take the test and all students must have parent permission prior to having the test performed. Due to our campus being rural and many parents working outside of the county, parent permission may be received over the phone by **two** people. 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 once symptoms begin to improve. They will also be encouraged to call their physician to let them know.

All test results will be submitted to NETHealth, DSHS and TDEM as required.