



Mid-West School District

A Quality Education For All, For Life

Joe Stroup, Superintendent

COVID-19 Rapid Testing Program

Mid-West School District has opted to participate in a voluntary, symptomatic COVID-19 rapid testing program in coordination with PA Department of Health and Concentric by Ginkgo Bioworks (authorized vendor of DOH). This newly implemented program is being offered as an additional resource to our students and families in order to provide some relief for the long waits at COVID-19 testing sites and to alleviate questions of illness symptoms being associated with COVID-19 infection. We feel that offering symptomatic COVID-19 rapid testing is one additional layer of mitigation strategy that will maximize the safety of our students and staff during the 2021-2022 school year. The testing will be offered at no cost to students or their families.

Testing Guidance

Parent/guardians will continue to be asked to evaluate their child for COVID-19 symptoms every morning before leaving for school and to keep the child home if they display any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 illness. If the child passes the morning pre-entry health screening conducted by the parent at home and arrives at school healthy, but develops symptoms of illness associated with COVID-19 infection during the school day, the child would be required to follow the return-to-school protocol per DOH guidelines for public schools. As an alternative to seeking out COVID-19 testing facilities or completing a 10 day out-of-school quarantine, a parent may elect to participate in the rapid testing school-based program.

Explanation of Test

The testing method is a nasal swab and involves inserting a small swab into the front of the nose in both nostrils. (This procedure is NOT the deep-sinus swabs that some individuals have found uncomfortable). Results will be available in 15 minutes. In many situations, students may be capable of completing a self-swab by showing an accurate return demonstration of the procedure to the nurse. Students who are not able to capably complete a self-swab and/or who are in grades K-2, a parent/guardian will be asked to attend and assist their student when obtaining the sample.

Parent consent for COVID-19 testing is mandated prior to the collection of any sample. Parent consent will remain in place for the balance of the school year, should future symptomatic testing be warranted for the student. Parent notification prior to testing will always be mandated, regardless of consent on file. If a parent does not wish to keep consent on file for future use, parents are asked to notify the school nurse in writing to withdrawal the consent after initial use.

All results will be communicated to the student's parent/guardian and PA Department of Health guidelines will be followed for any positive test result. If you have any further questions regarding the program or the COVID-19 rapid testing procedures for Mid-West School District, please contact Jenelle VanHorn at vanhorn.jenelle@mwsd.cc.