## Information for Parents: Midwest Coordination Center



## **Program Overview**

Our school/district is starting a free and voluntary COVID-19 screening program for students provided by Health and Human Services (HHS) to help schools safely reopen and stay open.

This testing program will help our school identify kids who have the virus but don't have symptoms and who may be contagious. This will allow us to take quick action to prevent further spread to other students and their families, and to staff. Testing helps keep everyone safe.



## How does it work?

The Coordination Center brings together schools with laboratories that perform COVID testing.

- Testing requires informed consent from the student's parent or guardian, and a HIPAA Authorization form to authorize the release of information.
- The samples are self-collected at school using a short, nasal swab or by collecting saliva.
- 3 Samples will be collected under the direction of a trained individual at the school at certain times during the school day.
- Samples are sent to a qualified partner lab where a "pooled" testing approach is used; several samples are combined into a batch or "pool" for testing. Pooling allows more people to be tested using a single test.
- Parents will be able to create an account to receive their student's results. They will be given test results using a secure system following Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) regulations.
- 6 If the pool is negative, the results will be released using a HIPAA-compliant secure system.
- If any sample pool tests are positive, the lab will individually retest student's samples in the positive pool to confirm which in the pool are positive.
- An assigned school staff member will be notified of positive results so that procedures for notification, contact tracing, and other actions can be followed.

## Do you have more questions?

Visit <a href="https://testedandprotected.org">https://testedandprotected.org</a> to learn more about this screening testing program.

**Help & Support** 



833-754-2176



support@testedandprotected.org



**Learn More** 

https://testedandprotected.org

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