

COVID-19 SCHOOL TESTING: FAQs FOR PARENTS

Do you have questions about the free COVID-19 Testing Program at Armorel School?

Below are answers to questions you may have.

General Information

What is the COVID-19 Testing Program?

Armorel School District's COVID-19 "Test to stay" Program offers free testing to students and staff who are **ASYMPTOMATIC and are considered a close contact from exposure to COVID-19 in the school environment.**

- **To participate the student must agree to wear a mask during the testing period (up to 7 days while at school) and continue regular quarantine guidelines while at home.**

Why is our school testing for COVID-19?

"Test to Stay" is a safe, effective way to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and help keep our schools open for in-person learning. Testing will help us keep students in the classroom and allow students to take part in the other activities they love.

Does my child have to get tested to attend school in person?

- No, COVID-19 tests are optional. If you choose not to enroll your child in the program, regular quarantine guidelines will apply for exposures. This option is now available to avoid the previous 7 or 10 day quarantine periods at home. Students will not be tested without both the student and guardian giving their consent.

My child is fully vaccinated. Do they need to be tested to attend school in person?

- No, current CDC guidance states that if your child is fully vaccinated, they do not need to be tested unless they develop [COVID-19 symptoms](#). Testing will be conducted in accordance with CDC [testing guidance](#).

How will the school protect my child's privacy?

Testing results will be shared only for public health purposes, which may include notifying close contacts that they may have been exposed to COVID-19 and taking other steps to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 in your school community. **Information sharing and notifying of contacts will be done in a way that protects your child's privacy.** Sharing of information about your child will only be done in accordance with applicable law and policies protecting student privacy and the security of your child's data.

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How the program works

How will the testing be done?

The COVID-19 tests will be free, quick, and easy. We will use a viral test, known as an antigen (rapid) test, which returns a result in as little as 15 minutes. This test will tell if your child has a current COVID-19 infection, regardless of whether they have symptoms.

How is the test given?

The test will involve a nasal swab. It is a quick and easy test.

- This nasal test gently swabs the inner part of the lower nostril. The test is not painful. We do not use the longer swabs that reach higher into the nose.

When and where will the test be given?

Our school's testing site will be located in the High School library building. Testing will begin at 7:30 for individuals who are in the Test to Stay program and who are considered close contacts. If negative, the student goes to class as normal. If positive, isolation guidelines apply and the student will be sent home.

Who will conduct the test?

Members of our school staff will oversee the COVID-19 testing. Our school nurse has vast experience with COVID-19 testing in the clinical area and has trained additional staff if the need arises.

How much does the test cost?

The COVID-19 tests will be free to students and staff. You will never receive a bill, and your insurance will not be charged.

How frequently will my child be tested?

Armored School District participates in the 7-day quarantine per the CDC for asymptomatic individuals. Therefore, students will be tested every day (excluding school holidays and weekends) of their 7-day quarantine period.

Will my child miss class to get tested?

No, testing shouldn't interfere with your child's school schedule. The test is quick and easy, and students will be able to fit the test into their day without disrupting learning.

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Results

When will we know the results of the test?

The results of the test should be available within 15 minutes of the test being administered.

Is the test reliable?

Tests can show a false negative or false positive, but most test results are useful and give families the information they need. Sometimes—depending on the type of test and other factors—more testing to confirm a result may be recommended.

What if my child tests positive?

We will ask you to keep your child home. You will be asked to provide information about your child's close contacts so that everyone who has been exposed can be notified. We will be in touch to discuss medical care and other support for your child and family.

What if someone in my child's school tests positive?

If your child was exposed to someone who has COVID-19, we will be in touch to discuss what actions to take. A COVID-19 test will tell us what further preventive actions are needed.

How can I sign up for the Test-to stay program at Armorel?

- **If your student is considered a close contact, the school POC (Nurse Welch) will contact you regarding test to stay and other quarantine options. At that time if you decide to participate in the program, a consent will be provided for signature and the test will be administered with parent AND student consent.**

CDC recommends everyone 12 years and older get a COVID-19 vaccine to help protect against COVID-19.

COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective, and free. Getting vaccinated prevents severe illness, hospitalizations, and death. Visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines) to find vaccination providers near you.