



Blue Ridge CUSD#18
411 N. John Street, Farmer City, IL 61842
Phone: 309 928-9141
#br_u_knighted

September 7, 2022

Dear Blue Ridge Parents/Guardians:

The data collection and other preparations for SHIELD-IL have been completed. The plan is for SHIELD-IL testing to begin at each of our school buildings during the week of September 12, 2022. As a reminder, students are not to have eaten anything for one hour prior to testing. According to SHIELD-IL, the testing locations in each building are considered to be a healthcare facility during the time of testing, which means that students will be asked to mask as they enter the testing location. Masks will be removed during the collection of saliva, and then put back on until they leave the testing location. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation with this SHIELD-IL requirement.

The current testing plan is:

BRHS- Tuesdays beginning at 9:00 am
Schneider Elementary- Tuesdays beginning at 9:40 am
BRIJHS- Thursdays beginning at 9:00 am

Adjustments will be made if enrollment numbers change significantly.

As a reminder from my letter dated August 18, 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released streamlined COVID-19 guidance for schools on August 16, 2022, which the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) are fully adopting. The guidance states that routine COVID-19 screening is no longer recommended in schools. In that letter we communicated that our best response to the new guidance is that we will continue to move forward with preparations for SHIELD-IL testing and we will plan to conduct testing through the end of the first semester. At that point, we will reevaluate whether we will continue to use SHIELD-IL testing based upon guidance at that time.

If at any point you choose to remove your student's consent for SHIELD-IL testing, please use the following statement in an email to your respective school nurse. Records will be updated upon receipt of your email.

Sample email:

I, (name of parent), parent/guardian of (name of student) revoke my consent to have my student participate in COVID-19 screening through SHIELD-IL, effective (date of email).

Please address your email for Schneider and BRHS students to Michelle Case at mcase@blueridge18.org. Please address your email for BRIJHS students to Dawn Stout at dstout@blueridge18.org.

Thank you,

Dr. Hillary Stanifer

Dr. Hillary Stanifer, Superintendent

Mr. Brian Easter, BRHS Principal Mrs. Mary Diener, BRHS Interim Assistant Principal
Mr. Burton Huddleston, BRIJHS Principal Mr. Ryan Peyton, Ruth M. Schneider Elementary Principal

