



Terrell County Independent School District

Sanderson Schools



COVID-19 Rapid Testing Plan 2021-2022

COVID-19 testing helps individuals who test positive, and who are symptomatic, get medical care early. COVID-19 testing also helps determine who needs to quarantine in a timely manner, to reduce the spread of the virus.

Board Approved ~ August 31, 2021

Board President

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Terrell County ISD Plan for COVID-19 Rapid Testing

Goal of Testing: With guidance from the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM), Center for Disease Control (CDC), and Texas Education Agency (TEA), Terrell County ISD will be implementing a phased-in approach to BinaxNOW rapid COVID-19 testing. Rapid antigen-based testing will potentially give Terrell County 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 number of absences for individuals waiting on test results, it will allow vaccinated staff members who meet the “close contact definition to test every other day so they can report to work, and it will help to fast-track treatment and quarantine for positive individuals and 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): Violita McDonald, MSN, RN

Backup Testing Program Coordinator: Amanda Magallan, Superintendent

Test Administrators (Overseer of Testing) : Violita McDonald, MSN, RN

4 Phases to COVID-19 testing:

Phase 1: Rapid COVID-19 testing for symptomatic and close contact staff members only.
(Target date for phase 1 implementation: September 1, 2021)

Phase 2: Rapid COVID-19 testing for symptomatic staff and students. Individuals less than the age of 18 must have parent/guardian permission before testing can be performed.
(Target date for phase 2 implementation: September 13, 2021)

Phase 3: Rapid COVID-19 testing same as phase 1 and 2 with the addition of asymptomatic COVID staff members.
(Target date for phase 3 implementation: October 1, 2021)

Phase 4: Rapid COVID-19 testing same as phases 1, 2 and 3 but adding asymptomatic and exposure to COVID students. Individuals less than age of 18 must have parent/guardian permission before testing can be performed.
(Target date for phase 3 implementation: November 1, 2021)



Phase 1 Protocol: Voluntary Symptomatic Staff Members & Close Contact Staff Members

Phase 1 is voluntary testing for symptomatic staff members and staff members who meet the “close contact” criteria at Terrell County ISD. Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of a COVID positive individual for greater than 15 consecutive minutes. No one will be required to take a test. They may voluntarily receive the rapid antigen BinaxNOW COVID-19 test after scheduling with Nurse McDonald, a time when she is available. The symptoms must be consistent with the current guidelines from the CDC. Symptoms are listed below.

1. **Sick at Home and Close Contact Staff Members:** If a staff member is sick at home and they want a test, they may call the School Nurse’s Office and schedule this test. This is the same process that will be used for staff members who meet the definition of “close contact” and require testing to report to work. We will offer a drive-up service. To perform the test outside to reduce the risk of exposure to others, this drive-up service will take place in front of the High School Entrance, at a time when traffic is not flowing for student pick-up or drop-off. The test administrator will be provided PPE to reduce the risk of exposure.
2. **Sick at School and Close Contact Staff Members:** If a staff member gets sick while at school, they will be asked to immediately go to the isolation room (nurse’s office or conference 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. Staff members will also be encouraged to call their physician to let them know.

Vaccinated staff members who meet the “close contact criteria” and wish to report to work without quarantining will have the option to test every other day, for the 10-day quarantine period, in order to report to work. Vaccinated staff members may report to work as long as they receive a negative test result during each of their testing sessions.

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



Phase 2 Protocol: Voluntary Symptomatic Students

Phase 2 is voluntary testing of symptomatic students at Terrell County 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. In an emergency situation, a parent may grant permission for testing through text message or email to Violita McDonald or Amanda Magallan. Parent permission slips will be available online, on the Nurse's Corner webpage, and forms 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 a minimum of 10 days as long as return to school protocols found in the Safe Return to School Plan. They will also be encouraged to call their physician to let them know.

Phase 3 Protocol: Voluntary Asymptomatic Staff Members

Phase 3 is voluntary testing of asymptomatic staff members. The staff members are not required to have symptoms. This is voluntary testing and will be performed as long as testing kits are available. These tests will be scheduled when Nurse McDonald is available.

- If results come back negative, the staff member is not symptomatic, and the staff member has no history of exposure, the staff member may return to work.
- If the results come back negative and the staff member is unvaccinated and asymptomatic, but has a history of exposure/close contact, then that staff member must still remain in quarantine. A negative test doesn't allow the individual to be removed from quarantine. It may still take up to 14 days to test positive if there was an exposure.
- If the results come back negative and the staff member is vaccinated and asymptomatic, but has a history of exposure/close contact, then the staff member must have a negative test every other day (at minimum) to report to work.



Phase 4 Protocol: Voluntary Asymptomatic Students

Phase 4 is voluntary testing of asymptomatic students and close contact students. Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of a COVID positive individual for greater than 15 consecutive minutes. The students are not required to have symptoms. Parent permission must be provided prior to any testing. In an emergency situation, a parent may grant permission for testing through text message or email to Violita McDonald or Amanda Magallan. Parent permission slips will be available online, on the Nurse's Corner webpage and will be sent home with information about the test. The voluntary testing will be available as long as testing kits are available. These tests will be scheduled when Nurse McDonald is available.

- If results come back negative, the student is asymptomatic and has no history of exposure, the student can return to school.
- If the results come back negative, the student is asymptomatic, but has a history of exposure/close contact then that student should quarantine. It may still take up to 14 days to test positive if there was an exposure.
- If the results come back positive, the student must follow quarantine protocols. The student will be asked to follow-up with their physician and stay home for a minimum of 10 days.

Terrell County ISD plans to implement each phase as deemed appropriate over the course of the Fall Semester of 2021. We want to address and educate our staff and community about the type of testing, the science behind it and the recommendations and policies Terrell County ISD has put in place as directed by the CDC and TEA.

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

As a participant in the Testing Project to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19, Terrell County is only allowed to implement this opportunity for staff members, students and school board members.

