

TUFSD COVID Testing FAQ

Updated: November 24, 2020

1. Who will be administering the tests? What training has occurred?
The SARS-CoV-2 rapid antigen tests will be administered by TUFSD nursing staff and volunteers from Boston Children's Pediatric. They have all completed the test administration training required by the DOH. The training and administration will be supervised by our District Medical Director, Dr. Goldstein and a Public Health Nurse assigned by the DOH.
2. How will students be selected?
The students will be selected by using a randomizing program to identify 20% of each cohort by building. Although all students and staff may eventually need to be tested, the initial 20% will be selected from those whose parents have currently provided consent.
3. Can you describe the process?
Students and staff who receive testing notifications will be assigned a time for testing. They will be part of a testing group of approximately 10 students/staff who will be assigned a half hour block of time for testing. To maintain social distancing we will be utilizing large spaces, such as the gym in each building, for the testing. In the notification there will also be a Westchester County DOH form which must be completed and brought to the testing appointment. Students and staff will have their temperatures screened and must complete the Daily Health Attestation prior to testing. If a student or staff member is symptomatic they must stay home and contact their health care provider. Each student and staff member will have a nasal swab which is how the test sample is gathered. The swab is inserted less than an inch into each nostril and rotated five times. Results will take fifteen minutes. When the test is completed the student or staff member will be given a document stating their test results. Negative results will leave the building and return at the start of the instructional day. Positive results will be isolated and directed to contact their health care provider to receive a PCR test.
4. Why the three-hour delay?
The purpose of using the delay schedule on Monday, November 30 and Thursday, December 3 is so that we can test staff and students prior to them mixing with other students and staff within their classrooms and buildings. This will allow us to isolate any students or staff who may test positive and minimize the potential need to quarantine large numbers of students and staff.
5. Will parents be notified of their child's results?
Yes, students and staff will be provided a form that states their test results. Students who test positive will be isolated and their parents will be required to pick them up and follow up with their medical provider to receive a PCR test. Positive students will not be able to return for in-person instruction until they are cleared by their doctor.
6. Can parents accompany their child to testing?
Yes. We expect our K-5 parents to wait with their children for test results and we encourage our 6-12 parents to be available in the event their child tests positive.

7. If selected to be tested, are we expected to take our child to school for the test, take them home, then back to school?

We ask that parents whose child(ren) are selected for testing make arrangements to bring them to school for testing and to bring them back home until the start of the school day on the 3 hour delay schedule.

8. What will happen if a student or staff members tests positive?

Students who test positive will be isolated and the parents will be required to pick them up and follow up with their health care provider to receive a PCR test. Positive students will not be able to return for in-person instruction until they are cleared by their doctor. Staff members who test positive will be directed to follow up with their health care provider to receive a PCR test and will not be able to return to work until cleared by their doctor.

9. Will students or staff who already tested positive be included in the testing?

Not at this time. CDC guidance indicates that an individual who has a previously confirmed case of COVID-19 can test positive for up to 90 days.