



Calallen Independent School District
COVID Rapid Testing Plan

Calallen ISD COVID Rapid Testing



Goal of Testing:

With guidance from the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM), Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Calallen ISD will be implementing BinaxNOW rapid COVID-19 testing. Rapid antigen based testing will potentially give Calallen 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 amount of absences for individuals waiting on test results and help to fast track treatment and quarantine for positive individuals and their 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: Teresa Shaw, RN, District Health Services Coordinator

Testing Program Support: Emily Lorenz, Assistant Superintendent

Test Administrators (Overseer of Testing): District Nursing Staff

By conducting OPTIONAL tests on campus, Calallen ISD can:

- Use tests as an additional screening tool in some cases to prevent the virus from coming on campus.
- Provide another source of testing to which the school can quickly respond by removing the individual before they can spread COVID on campus.

Test Type:

Testing provided by Abbott Laboratories. Tests will be BinaxNOW tests provided by the state and federal government.

- Sensitivity (true positive rate) of 97.1%
- Specificity (true negative rate) of 98.5%

Testing Specifics:

- Testing must be optional.
- Results within 15 minutes.
- Tests are administered with a nasal swab (to the shallow front of the nostrils only). Adults will be able to self-administer with the oversight of a test administrator.
- Available to only district employees and/or students.
- Legal guardian consent required for students under the age of 18.
- No charge for student/staff testing.

COVID Testing Plan:

Group 1: Rapid COVID-19 testing for symptomatic students and staff members. Individuals less than the age of 18 must have parent/guardian permission before testing can be performed.

Group 2: Rapid COVID-19 testing for asymptomatic students and staff identified as being exposed to COVID (close contact).

Group 3: Rapid COVID-19 testing to be used as a voluntary screening of students and/or staff for specified purposes (i.e. athletic teams or extracurricular organizations).

Group 1 Protocol: Voluntary Symptomatic Students or Staff Members

Voluntary testing for symptomatic students and staff members at Calallen ISD. No one will be required to take a test. Symptoms must be consistent with the current guidelines from the CDC and the Nueces County Health District (NCHD).

Symptomatic Students:

Voluntary testing of symptomatic students at Calallen ISD: Symptoms must be consistent with the current guidelines from the CDC and NCHD. No student will be required to take the test and all students must have parent permission prior to having the test performed. Parent permission may be received over the phone by two staff members. Parent permission slips will be available online, in the nurse's office and will be sent home with information about the test if requested. If a form is filled out in advance, the parents will still be notified prior to any testing.

- If the test result is negative, the symptomatic student will be sent home following symptomatic protocol. The student should still follow-up with their healthcare provider to rule out COVID or receive an alternative diagnosis.
- If the test is positive, the student will be required to stay home for 10 days once symptoms begin to improve. Campus nursing staff will work with families to determine return to campus protocols. Families will also be encouraged to contact their local healthcare provider.

Symptomatic Staff Members:

Voluntary testing for symptomatic staff members at Calallen ISD: No one will be required to take a test. Staff may voluntarily receive the rapid antigen BinaxNOW COVID-19 test after scheduling with Calallen ISD Nursing Staff at a time when a test administrator is available. Symptoms must be consistent with the current guidelines from the CDC and NCHD. Symptoms are listed below.

1. Sick at Home: If a staff member is sick at home and they want a test, they may call the Nurse's Office and schedule a test. A drive up test will be scheduled by the nurse. The location will be determined by campus (for privacy), and the test will be performed outside to reduce the risk of exposure to others. Test administrators will be provided PPE to reduce the risk of exposure.
2. Sick at School: If a staff member gets sick while at school, they will be asked to immediately go to the isolation room in the Nurse's Office, 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 healthcare provider to rule out COVID or receive an alternative diagnosis.
- If the test is positive, the staff member will be required to stay home for at minimum 10 days and must adhere to return to work protocols. Staff will also be encouraged to contact their healthcare provider.

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

Group 2 Protocol: Voluntary Asymptomatic Students and Staff Members

Asymptomatic Students and Close Contact Students:

Voluntary testing of asymptomatic students and close contact students: Close contact is defined as:

- a) being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or
- b) being within 6 feet for a duration of 15 minutes; however, additional factors like case/contact masking (i.e., both the infectious individual and the potential close contact have been consistently and properly masked), ventilation, presence of dividers, and case symptomology may affect this determination.

Students in this group are not required to have symptoms. Parent permission must be provided prior to any testing. Parent permission may be received over the phone by two staff members. Parent permission slips will be available online, in the nurse's office and will be sent home with information about the test if requested. If a form is filled out in advance, the parents will still be notified prior to any testing. Voluntary testing will be available as long as testing kits are available. These tests will be scheduled when a test administrator is available.

- If test results are negative, the student is asymptomatic and has no history of exposure, they can return to school.
- If the results are negative, the student is asymptomatic, but has a history of exposure/close contact then that student must still remain on quarantine. A negative test does not allow the

individual to be removed from quarantine. It may still take up to 10 days to test positive if there was an exposure.

- If the results are positive, the student must follow quarantine protocols. The student will be asked to follow-up with their healthcare provider, and must remain at home for 10 days or until the return to school protocol has been met.

Asymptomatic Students and Close Contact Staff Member:

Voluntary testing of asymptomatic staff members and close contact staff members: Close contact is defined as:

- a) being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or
- b) being within 6 feet for a duration of 15 minutes; however, additional factors like case/contact masking (i.e., both the infectious individual and the potential close contact have been consistently and properly masked), ventilation, presence of dividers, and case symptomology may affect this determination.

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 a test administrator is available.

- If results are negative, the staff member is not symptomatic and has no history of exposure, they can return to work.
- If the results are negative, the staff member is asymptomatic, but has a history of exposure/close contact then that staff member must still remain on quarantine. A negative test doesn't allow the individual to be removed from quarantine. It may still take up to 10 days to test positive if there was an exposure.
- If results are positive, the staff member must follow quarantine protocols. The staff member will be asked to follow-up with their healthcare provider, and must remain at home for 10 days or until return to work protocol has been met.

Group 3 Protocol: Voluntary Screening of Students and/or Staff for Specific Purposes

Voluntary rapid COVID-19 testing to be used as a screening for students and/or staff for specified purposes (i.e. athletic teams or extracurricular organizations) in Calallen ISD: When warranted, voluntary screening of extracurricular programs will be conducted. Student and staff participants will be tested in order to ensure the health and safety of students and staff in Calallen ISD. Protocols for screening will be similar to those for Group 2: Asymptomatic Students and Staff.

Informing of the Public and Reporting

Calallen ISD plans to implement testing as deemed appropriate over the course of the next few months. We will continue to address and educate our staff and community about the type of testing, the science behind it and the recommendations and policies Calallen ISD has put in place as directed by NCHD, CDC and TEA.

All test results will be reported in a timely manner in accordance with procedural guidelines. In addition, Calallen ISD will comply with reporting requirements to the NCHD, DSHS, TEA, and TDEM as required.