

SHIELD TESTING INFORMATION

Oak Lawn Community High School has partnered with the University of Illinois to test students, teachers, and staff members for COVID-19 infection. Testing is scheduled to begin on **Thursday, September 2, 2021**.

How often will students be tested?

- 1 time per week (right now it is scheduled for Wednesday or Thursday)
- Students must not have anything to eat or drink 1 hour prior to testing.

What is the test and why is OLCHS implementing this program?

- Students will receive a free diagnostic COVID-19 test conducted by collecting saliva (spit).
- Participating in the testing program will help prevent the virus spread in the school setting by identifying and isolating asymptomatic and positive individuals as early as possible.
- The testing program will allow students with symptoms and/or a “close contact” with a positive case to **reduce or eliminate quarantine requirements**, via the IDPH “Test to Stay” protocols.

How will a student know if they test positive?

- Parents/students will receive access to their test results via an online platform.
- OLCHS will also receive test results and will notify parents of any positive result.

How accurate is this test?

The saliva test has a sensitivity of 97% and a specificity of 99%, with very few false positives. The test only tests for SARS-CoV-2, not for any other viruses or pathogens.

What will happen if a student tests positive?

If a student’s test results are positive, their parent/guardian should contact their doctor immediately to review the test results and discuss next steps. Typically, infective individuals need to isolate for a 10-day period.

Who will receive the test results?

In addition to parents receiving their child’s test results, OLCHS and the Illinois Department of Public Health (“IDPH”) will also receive the test results, consistent with IDPH guidance and the Illinois Control of Communicable Disease Code.

Do parents/students need to take any other action?

- No action required if a student/parent/guardian consents to the testing.
- If a parent/guardian does NOT consent for their child to be tested for COVID-19 infection, they must complete, sign, and return the OPT-OUT form no later than Thursday, September 2, 2021, to Maria Vanderwarren in the Superintendent’s Office. No fax or email copies will be accepted - the hard copy of the form must be returned signed by the student’s parent/guardian. If a student or their family has any questions about the opt-out form, they can contact Maria Vanderwarren at (708)741-5602 or mvanderwarren@olchs.org.

Link to Tutorial Video about sample collection: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AN_Fi5Vaznw