



Hope-Hill Elementary School
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COVID-19 Surveillance Testing Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What are the benefits of surveillance testing?

Surveillance testing is a non-diagnostic test that detects for the presence of COVID-19 in an individual. The benefits of surveillance testing include:

- Allows districts to test, receive test results (within 24 hours) and notify individuals of a clinically significant reading before coming to school. This benefit would allow us to keep asymptomatic COVID-19 carriers who may pass a daily self-certification out of our school buildings, risking the spread of the virus within our buildings.
- Allows districts to monitor their own, localized data. This allows districts that have low levels of positivity or case activity **to continue the in-person learning experience, even if community data rises or surges.**

WHERE: We will test students and staff at their school and building sites.

WHEN: We hope to make surveillance testing available as soon as the week of February 1, 2021.

WHY: Surveillance testing for COVID-19 will allow us to quickly identify asymptomatic students and staff and begin the isolation process for these individuals. It will also allow students and staff within close contact to immediately return home, as they will be subject to quarantine by the local health department.

Will surveillance testing replace other mitigation strategies?

No, surveillance testing does not take the place of our current mitigation strategies including wearing masks, maintaining physical distance, practicing good hand hygiene, frequent and regular cleaning and sanitizing, implementing enhanced air ventilation strategies, and monitoring any health concerns or symptoms.

Who can participate in surveillance testing?

At this time, surveillance testing will be offered to staff and all students who have selected the in-person learning model.

Is surveillance testing required?

While participation in surveillance testing is not required for students, it is strongly encouraged. The success of this mitigation strategy, **and our ability to return and keep students in school**, is based on high levels of staff and student

"In Pursuit of Excellence"



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participation. We are exploring all options as it relates to the administration of surveillance testing for staff. We will be implementing staff training, information sessions, and other staff engagement activities as we make surveillance testing available in our schools and buildings and work to keep everyone safe.

How are results delivered?

On designated sample collection days, the Vendor will deliver the samples to the lab. We anticipate results within 24 hours and likely sooner depending on the volume of samples dropped off. The lab informs school health personnel of any bar codes that produce a presumptive positive, and those health personnel then will look up the bar codes, inform those families/staff, and advise them to quarantine and seek a PCR test from their doctor or a state testing center. ***Students/staff who receive a negative test will not receive any notification.***

Who tests the samples?

The District is exploring a partnership with Viral Solutions, LLC. to provide screening services.

How will the privacy of participants be maintained?

Samples are provided with a bar code label that does not include a name. If there is a presumptive positive result, the lab will inform our school health personnel, who will look up the bar code and contact the family or staff member. The lab is not provided with any names of students or staff. Any nurse documentation related to testing will be maintained within our District with the same level of security and confidentiality as with all student/staff medical information.

What happens if I receive a test result of a significant clinical finding (presumed positive case)?

Anyone with a test result of a significant clinical finding is presumed positive and will be advised to quarantine and immediately contact their doctor or a state testing center to schedule a PCR test to confirm the results. Students/staff will be excluded from coming to school during the quarantine period unless the PCR test provides a negative result. It is extremely important for our screening participants to know that receiving a presumed positive result is not cause for panic. Please consult with your primary physician/pediatrician and they can best instruct you on the next steps.