

Gainesville ISD Plan for COVID-19 Rapid Testing

With guidance from the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM), Center for Disease Control (CDC), Texas Education Agency (TEA), Cooke County Emergency Management; Gainesville ISD will be implementing a phased-in approach to BinaxNOW rapid COVID-19 testing. Rapid antigen based testing will potentially give Gainesville 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 and is free for all GISD students who are participating in face to face instruction.

Testing coordinator and testing administrators were chosen from guidelines provided by TEA. These documents are available with Paula Moore, Director of Human Resources.

Testing Program Coordinator (Point of Contact): Paula Moore, Director of Human Resources

Test Administrators (Overseer of Testing): Traci Skinner, school nurse for Robert E. Lee Intermediate School and Bonnie Cox, school nurse for Gainesville Junior High School.

COVID-19 Testing Plan:

Rapid COVID-19 testing will be available at no charge for symptomatic staff members and students who participate in face to face instruction. Students less than the age of 18 must have parent/guardian permission before testing can be performed. Testing will take place in two phases. Phase I will be the priority and Phase II will be implemented shortly following.

Phase I:

Voluntary Symptomatic Staff Members

Covid testing is voluntary for symptomatic staff members at Gainesville ISD. No one will be required to take a test. They may voluntarily receive the rapid antigen BinaxNOW COVID-19 test after scheduling to be tested by contacting GISD Administration at 940.665.4362. The HR department will assist with scheduling at a time when a test administrator is available. The symptoms must be consistent with the current guidelines from the CDC. 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 GISD administration at 940.665.4362. The staff member will be directed to the HR department and they will assist with providing the directions on how to register. GISD will offer staff an area to test that offers privacy and reduces 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 the campus nurse will offer the staff member the ability to be tested immediately at one of the two sites offered within the district. 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. The staff member will be required to follow the protocol of remaining at home and not returning until 48-hour symptom free.
 - If the test is positive, the staff member will be required to stay home for 10 days and demonstrate they have been symptom free for 48 hours prior to return. They will also be encouraged to call their physician.
 - Staff members who have been in contact with a positive person and test negative will be required to fulfill a 14-day quarantine.
 - For staff who choose not to participate in testing, they will need to contact the Director of HR to discuss requirements for returning to work.

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

Voluntary Symptomatic Students

Covid testing is voluntary for symptomatic students who participate in Face to Face instruction at Gainesville ISD. The symptoms must be consistent with the current guidelines from the CDC. Students will be required to take the test and all students must have parent permission prior to having the test performed. Due to our campus being rural and most parents working during the day, parent permission may be received over the phone and must be verified by two people. Contact the campus school nurse for more information. Parent permission slips will be available online, in the school nursing office and will be sent home with information about the test.

- If the test is negative, the symptomatic student will be sent home following symptomatic protocol. The student will be required to follow the protocol of remaining at home and not returning until 48-hour symptom free. 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 10 days and demonstrate they have been symptom free for 48 hours prior to return. The parent and student will also be encouraged to call their physician.
- Students who have been in contact with a positive person and test negative will be required to fulfill a 14-day quarantine.

Phase II:

Voluntary Asymptomatic Staff Members

Voluntary testing of asymptomatic staff members and close contact staff members will be available. Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of a COVID positive individual for greater than 15 consecutive minutes. 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 a test administrator is available.

- If results come back negative, the staff member is not symptomatic and has no history of exposure they can return to work.
- If the results come back 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 14 days to test positive if there was an exposure.

Voluntary Asymptomatic Students

Voluntary testing of asymptomatic students and close contact students will be available. 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. Due to our campus being rural and most parents working during the day, parent permission may be received over the phone and verified by two people. Contact the school nurse for more information. Parent permission slips will be available online, in the school nursing office 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 a test administrator is available.

- If results come back negative, the student is asymptomatic and has no history of exposure they 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 must still remain on 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 positive, the student must follow quarantine protocols. The student will be asked to follow-up with their physician and stay home for 10 days.

Gainesville ISD plans to implement each phase as deemed appropriate over the course of the next few months. We want to address and educate our staff and community about the type of testing, the science behind it and the recommendations and policies Gainesville ISD has put in place as directed by the CDC, TEA, and Cooke County Emergency Management. All test results will be submitted to the, Department of State Health Services and Texas Department of Emergency Management as required.