

Dear Parent/Guardian, ([en Español](#))

Township High School District 211 is offering two **optional** COVID-19 tests to all students. The COVID-19 testing program is part of the Illinois Department of Public Health's layered mitigation strategies to maintain a safe environment for our school community. The optional COVID-19 tests available through District 211 are the Abbott BinaxNOW test ("Binax Test") and the SHIELD Illinois test ("SHIELD Test"), and are available at no cost to the student. **Both free COVID-19 tests require parent/guardian consent to administer to District 211 students.**

Parents may complete the consent forms through Infinite Campus through Friday, October 8. These forms only need to be completed if you want your child to participate in the voluntary free testing offered at school.

1. Log in to the Infinite Campus portal [here](#)
2. Select **Documents** from the left menu
3. Under "Health" click on **COVID Testing Optional Consent and Waiver** to complete the consent form

Additional details regarding the type of COVID-19 testing options can be found below. There also is a Frequently Asked Questions link on the 2021-2022 School Year Information section of the District 211 website, under the Parents or Students tabs. Additional questions can be directed to shieldtesting@d211.org.

Sincerely,

Danielle Hauser Ed.D.
Director of Student Services

Binax Test Information

The Binax Test is a rapid antigen test administered through a nasal swab, with results available in 15 minutes. All swabs will be used solely for the purpose of COVID-19 testing and then destroyed in a manner appropriate for biological specimens.

SHIELD Test Information

The SHIELD Test is a RT-PCR (polymerase chain reaction) saliva-based test conducted via a sample of saliva deposited by the individual into a vial. Individuals taking the test should refrain from eating and drinking for one hour prior to providing a sample. Samples are sent to the nearest SHIELD lab and results are typically available within 24 hours of the sample's arrival at the lab.

There are two testing scenarios from which to choose:

Optional Diagnostic Testing: Diagnostic tests are intended to identify current infections and are performed when a person has COVID-19 symptoms or when a person does not show symptoms but has recent known or suspected exposure to COVID-19. Both the Binax Test and SHIELD Test can be used as diagnostic tests as determined by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

The diagnostic testing program provides the opportunity for students with a COVID-19 symptom or suspected exposure to return to school, sports and activities with a negative test result.

Optional Weekly Screening Testing: Weekly screening testing is intended to identify infected persons who are not exhibiting symptoms and without known or suspected exposure to COVID-19. Screening tests are performed to identify persons who may be contagious so measures can be taken to prevent further transmission. The voluntary weekly screening program will begin in the fall, will be administered by a SHIELD testing company, and will involve samples taken one time per week at the school. Each student whose parent has voluntarily enrolled them in this weekly testing program will be notified when and where to report for the weekly test. Both the Binax Test and SHIELD Test can be used as weekly screening tests as determined by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Screening testing is recommended by the IDPH/CDC for students in school and athletic/activity settings who are not fully vaccinated during times of moderate, substantial and high transmission rates or who are involved in high risk sports and activities.

COVID-19 Testing Information

Both positive and negative testing results are provided to the parent/guardian by District 211 or the SHIELD Test lab. Testing results will also be provided to local, state, and federal public health officials as required. Any results or associated information will remain confidential.

Parents who want to enroll their child in these voluntary testing options may complete the consent forms through Infinite Campus. These forms only need to be completed if you want your child to participate in the free testing offered at school.