



Covid-19 Testing for Schools: An Overview and FAQ for Parents and Guardians

Q: Why is Shelby County Schools (SCS) offering testing services in the school?

A: SCS is committed to a safe environment for all students that supports on-going, in-person instruction as they return this fall.

Q: Who will be providing the testing services?

A: Shelby County Schools will partner with Poplar Healthcare and Christ Community Health Services for this initiative.

Q: Is testing mandatory?

A: Testing services offered are completely voluntary and will require parental consent.

Q: Does a parent/legal guardian have to be present for the test?

A: A parent or legal guardian is not required to be present for the test, but a parental consent form must be completed prior to testing. The parental consent form only has to be completed once and will be applicable for the entire 2021-22 academic school year.

Q: What type of test will be administered to students?

A: The test will consist of a shallow nasal swab. This is a molecular test, referred to as the polymerase chain reaction (PCR). The PCR test is considered the gold standard of testing because of its accuracy.

Q: How often will my child be tested?

A: Students will be tested on a rotational, systematic schedule throughout the school year.

Q: How long will it take for results to be returned?

A: Results will be returned within 24 hours.

Q: How will I receive my test results?

A: An email will be sent to the parent's or guardian's primary email address of record as listed in PowerSchool. This email will state "Results are Ready." Once opened, the recipient will be redirected to a secure portal to access results.

Q: What happens if the test result is positive?

A: If your child tests positive, he/she will be relocated to the safe room and directed home to self-isolate and seek medical attention, as necessary.

Q: Does anyone else have access to my child's results?

A: Students' health information will only be shared in accordance with HIPAA guidelines and the consent and waiver forms signed by the parent or guardian.

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