

SHIELD TESTING Q&A

1. What is SHIELD testing?
SHIELD is an innovative, saliva-based test created by the University of Illinois. You can read more about it at <https://www.uillinois.edu/shield>
2. How often will testing occur?
Our plan calls to test in each building one day per week, as recommended by SHIELD Illinois. This will be the same day each week (excluding special circumstances) which will allow for greater schedule consistency for students. We will evaluate how our testing protocol is going and may determine at some point that more or less frequent testing is needed.
3. Is SHIELD testing mandatory?
No. Families need to complete an opt-out form for SHIELD testing.
4. Where/when is the testing?
All testing will take place at each of the school buildings. Classes will have assigned times on their testing day. All testing will take place during the school day.
5. Who is doing the testing?
Testing teams are from an assigned 3rd party vendor to supervise the testing implementation and ensure proper steps are being followed.
6. What if I don't have any symptoms? Do I still need to test?
Yes. SHIELD testing is only for those who are not having symptoms. Many people may test positive but not have symptoms (asymptomatic) and could spread the virus. Testing will help us reduce the potential for spread.
7. Why does the testing take place at school? Why not do it at home?
Testing must take place in school due to CLIA protocols and to ensure that test takers are not eating or drinking prior to testing.
8. Why can't we eat or drink an hour prior to testing?
The test developers say that doing so may provide an invalid sample or inconclusive result. At this time, the test schedule will allow for students to eat breakfast, wait a little more than an hour, and then take the test before lunch.
9. Do I have to pay for the SHIELD test?
It is free for students and staff. The state of Illinois is picking up the cost of the testing.
10. When are results available?
Samples will be picked up daily by a courier and transported to a SHIELD Illinois lab. Results will generally be available the next day.
11. How will I get my (student's) results?
If the test is negative, you will not hear from the school district.
If the test is positive, a school nurse or administrator will call the positive individual or their parent/guardian.

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12. Do I have to self-quarantine while I wait for my test results?

No. After your SHIELD test, you can continue your regular activities while you wait for results. You should immediately self-quarantine if you start to not feel well while you are waiting for results.

13. How do I contact SHIELD with an account access issue?

We do plan on offering a parent portal through shield. If you have any issues signing into the SHIELD portal or creating a SHIELD account to access your test result, please call SHIELD IL Help at (217) 265-6059. They will not release results but can assist you with account access issues.

14. Will my child's pediatrician get a copy of the results?

The school district will not send a copy of your child's test results to their pediatrician. Per state protocols, IDPH automatically receives notice of a positive case

15. Do I have to be part of the SHIELD testing to be in the test to stay program?

Yes, you will need to be part of the SHIELD testing to be eligible for the Test to Stay option (8/6/2021). It takes one week to enroll any new enrollee into the program, and you need to be tested for 3 weeks prior to be eligible for the test to stay program.

16. I've received one of the COVID-19 vaccines. Do I still have to participate in SHIELD testing?

If you are fully vaccinated, SHIELD testing is not required. However, it is recommended. The preliminary research indicates vaccinated individuals can spread the Delta variant, if contracted.