



West Northfield School District 31

School-Based Weekly COVID-19 Testing

District 31 has partnered with the University of Illinois to test students, teachers, and staff members weekly for COVID-19 infection. All students are assumed participants unless an opt-out form (available at www.district31.net/shieldtesting) is completed.

SHIELD Testing FAQ

What is SHIELD testing?

SHIELD is an innovative, saliva-based (not nasal or throat swab) test created by the University of Illinois. You can read more about it at <https://www.uillinois.edu/shield>.

How often will testing occur?

Our plan calls to test students in each building once every week. Building administration will send out testing schedules once the testing schedules are confirmed with our third provider "test collectors." We will evaluate how our testing protocol is going and may determine at some point that more or less frequent testing is needed.

What is the benefit to participating in SHIELD Testing?

By participating in this testing program, District 31 will be able to monitor transmission rates in our building. In addition, students will be able to participate in the special close contact rules for schools, which reduces social distancing from 6 feet to 3 feet.

How often will testing occur?

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Is SHIELD testing mandatory for students?

No. Testing is being provided as an additional mitigation strategy to promote the safety of our school community. Parents are able to opt their students out of testing at any time.

Where/when is the testing?

All testing will take place at Field and Winkelman schools during the school day. There will be assigned schedules and locations that are still to be determined.

Who is doing the testing?

SHIELD's third-party partner will be sending in a trained team to conduct the testing and ensure proper steps are being followed.

Why does the testing have to happen at school? Why not at home?

Testing must take place in school due to Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) protocols and to ensure that test takers are not eating or drinking prior to testing.

Why can't we eat or drink one hour prior to testing?

The test developers say that doing so may provide an invalid sample or inconclusive result.

How much does the test cost?

It is free for students and staff. ISBE is covering all costs so there will be no District 31 costs.

When will results be available?

Samples will be picked up by a courier and transported to a SHIELD Illinois lab. Results will generally be available the next day.

How will I get my results?

SHIELD will set up a parent portal so you can receive the results. The school district will also get the 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.

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.

NO action is required if you consent for your child to be tested weekly for COVID-19 infection. If you do NOT consent for your child to be tested for COVID-19 infection, complete, sign, and return the OPT-OUT form located at www.district31.net/shieldtesting.

