



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DCPS COVID Testing in Schools

#RecoverStrong Telephone Townhall

October 2021

Si necesita servicios de interpretación en español, por favor use este enlace: tinyurl.com/DCPSEspanol

Thank You for Joining Us

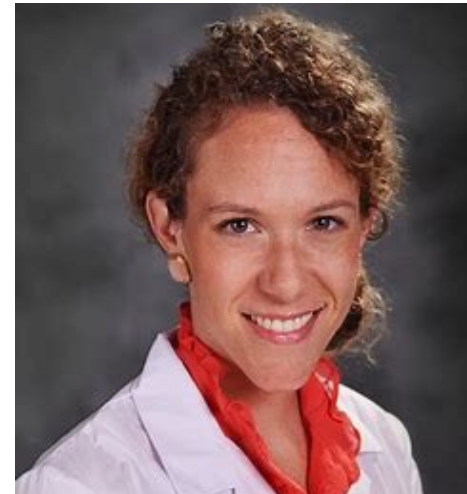
DCPS is prioritizing the health and safety of all our students!



Lewis D. Ferebee
Chancellor
DC Public Schools



Bren Elliott
School Improvement & Supports
DC Public Schools



Heidi Schumacher
Health and Wellness
Office of the State Superintendent
of Education

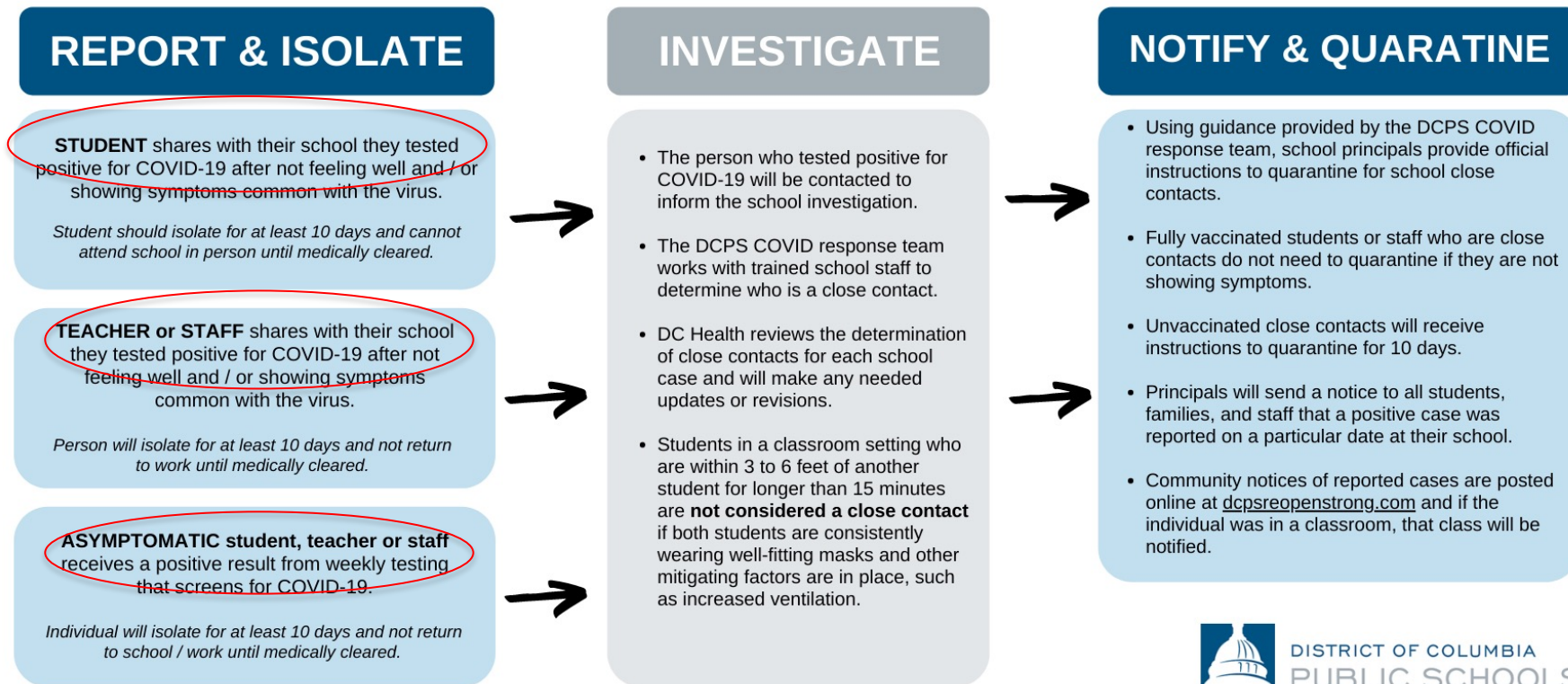


Sharon Gaskins
Resource Strategy Officer
DC Public Schools

COVID-19 Response Protocol – At a Glance

HOW COVID-19 CASES AT SCHOOL ARE REPORTED

Learn more at dcpsreopenstrong.com/health/response/



School-based COVID-19 Testing Program

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends offering asymptomatic coronavirus (COVID-19) testing in schools.
- **COVID-19 testing helps schools to identify cases of COVID-19 quickly and reduce the risk of COVID-19 infections at school.**
- **All DCPS students are automatically eligible for symptomatic and random asymptomatic testing** as part of the centralized school-based COVID-19 testing program with Shield T3.
- Consent for student COVID-19 testing will take place via an **“opt-out” process.**
- Parents, guardians, and students age 18 and older can revoke consent through the opt-out form at any time. The form allows for electronic signature so parents and guardians and/or students 18 and older can email the form to their school. You can find the form under COVID Guidance and Resources on OSSE.DC.Gov.

What is the COVID-19 Test?



- This program uses a saliva-based PCR test
- The test is non-invasive and does not require medical personnel to collect the sample.
- The saliva sample is collected in a small test tube. A sample of 1-1.5 milliliters of saliva is collected.

**You can learn more about the test
here: www.shieldt3.com/k12/**

Tell Me More About the Shield T3 Test- *How Does it Work?*



Welcome

While at the collection site, please practice social distancing and wear a mask except when providing saliva. The Shield T3 test is non-invasive and shouldn't take more than 3 minutes. Follow the guidelines below and any instructions you receive from site staff.



Prep



Do not eat, drink, smoke, or brush your teeth within an hour of your test.



Sanitize your hands.



Retrieve a vial and funnel.

Provide saliva



Remove the cap and hold on to it.



Attach the funnel securely to the vial.



Deposit 1 to 1.5 ml of saliva into the funnel.



Remove the funnel and discard it in a medical waste container.



Screw the cap on the vial and tighten so the vial is completely sealed.

Scan



Sanitize the vial and your hands with a sanitizing wipe.



Write your birth month and day on the vial.



Retrieve a bag. Put your vial in the bag, and seal.



Present the vial and QR code for scanning.

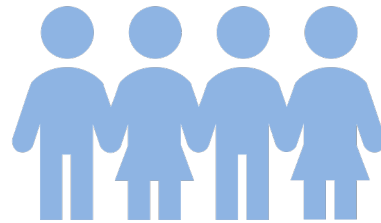


Place the scanned sample where directed.

What Does Screening Testing Looks Like at School?



Once per week, each DCPS school participates in COVID-19 screening testing. This program is managed by Shield T3 via OSSE.



The goal is for each school to test at a minimum of 10% of enrolled students weekly. Students are selected at random to get tested.



Tests are processed by the testing lab, results are shared with families and DCPS Covid Response Team, school notifies positive individual and close contacts about how to quarantine and issues community notice.

COVID-19 Testing Frequently Asked Questions

What kind of COVID-19 testing programs are done at school for students?

There are two kinds of testing options currently available in DCPS schools.

- 1. Symptomatic Testing:** If a child is showing symptoms of COVID-19, they will be escorted to the Health Isolation Room for an assessment by a health professional and administered an on-site COVID-19 test, if appropriate.
- 2. Asymptomatic Testing:** Each week, DCPS randomly tests 10-20 percent of our students, who are not showing any COVID-like symptoms, as a surveillance measure.

All DCPS school-based testing is provided at no cost.



COVID-19 Testing Frequently Asked Questions

How and when will I find out about the results of the test?

- Saliva test results will be available through a patient portal that is directly available to parents/guardians, or the adult student.
- Results are typically available in 6-12 hours.
- Parents/guardians, or the adult student, will also be contacted by the school if a test is positive.
- DC Health will follow up with parents/guardians, or the adult student, as part of their routine procedures for positive COVID-19 tests.



COVID-19 Testing Frequently Asked Questions

What should I do if my student's COVID-19 test is positive?

- **If the student's test results are positive**, it means the student has the virus and could spread it. Please contact the student's healthcare provider immediately.
- The student should stay at home and follow the health and school guidelines from DC Health and from your school. If the student is on-campus when the test result is received, they will be taken to an isolation area until they can be picked up from school.
- As with any laboratory test, there is a small risk of inconclusive, false positive or false negative results. In the event of any concern regarding your health, including the presence of symptoms of COVID-19, you are strongly encouraged to contact your healthcare provider



COVID-19 Testing Frequently Asked Questions

What should I do if my student's COVID-19 test is negative?

- **If the student's test results are negative**, it means that the virus was not detected in the student's specimen at this time. The student should continue maintaining the masking, hygiene and social distancing practices recommended by DC Health.
- If the student had a negative test result but is symptomatic or a close contact of an individual who tested positive for COVID-19, they should follow all guidance from DC Health and your school regarding when your student can return to school.
- If the student develops symptoms of COVID-19, you should call the student's healthcare provider, regardless of the test results.



COVID-19 Staff Testing in Schools

- DCPS offers both on-site asymptomatic and symptomatic COVID testing for school-based staff.
- School-based staff who desire to participate in on-site COVID testing programs must opt-in.

- Asymptomatic:
 - DCPS staff who are unvaccinated may complete weekly asymptomatic testing at school and upload their results into DC's HR system. This satisfies the requirement under Mayor's Order 2021-109 for weekly testing for any unvaccinated DCPS staff member.
 - Per Mayor's Order 2021-109, all DCPS staff working regularly in schools must complete a course of COVID-19 vaccine by Nov. 1, 2021. School-based staff with approved medical or religious exemptions would be able to access weekly asymptomatic testing under this program.
- Symptomatic:
 - Staff who opt in to the ShieldT3 testing program may also access on-site testing in the event that they develop symptoms of COVID-19 while at school.

As a Reminder — Take the Shot Youth Vaccination Incentive Sites!

Walk-Up Site	Address	Hours
Fort Stanton Recreation Center	1812 Erie Street SE	Tue & Wed: 10 am – 6 pm Thur: 12 – 6 pm Sat – 12 – 5 pm
Dorothy Height / Benning Library	3935 Benning Road NE	Tue & Wed: 10 am – 6 pm Thur: 12 – 6 pm Sat – 12 – 5 pm
Columbia Heights Education Campus	3100 16 th Street NW	** opens Oct. 12**

- **DC has 3 new youth vax incentive sites** opening this month.
- Youth who get their first shot at one of these locations can receive AirPods or a \$51 gift card.
- Parents also receive a \$51 gift card.
- All students are automatically entered into a sweepstakes drawing. Prizes awarded in September and October.
- Visit <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/incentives> to learn more.