



Staff Frequently Asked Questions regarding COVID-19 testing and quarantine

○ When/why would I need to be tested for COVID-19?

If you are exhibiting any of the known COVID-19 symptoms, you are eligible to be rapid tested by your school Health Services professional.

○ What happens if I test positive for COVID-19 via the rapid test at school?

If the rapid test administered at school results positive, you will be required to isolate for a minimum 10 days. The current CDC guidelines on isolation for those diagnosed with COVID-19 state that symptoms must be resolved/improving and no fever within 24 hours (without taking fever reducing medication) before isolation can be discontinued. Per current local Department of Health procedures, you will not be required to test negative before coming back to school/work. You are encouraged to follow up with your primary medical provider.

○ What happens if I test negative for COVID-19 via the rapid test at school?

As with any medical test, there is a potential for a false negative. Test performance depends on the amount of virus (antigen) in the sample. A negative test result may occur if the level of antigen in a sample is below the detection limit of the test. If you are displaying symptoms known of COVID-19 we will ask that you have a confirmatory negative PCR (polymerase chain reaction) COVID-19 test or an alternate diagnosis in written form from your medical provider before allowing you back to school/work.

○ What if the rapid test is negative, but the PCR test is positive?

As stated above, test performance depends on the amount of virus in the sample. A higher amount of the virus is required for the rapid test, than the PCR test. If the PCR test comes back positive, you will be required to isolate per the current CDC guidelines for those diagnosed with COVID-19.

○ Are these tests only for students or are staff members able to test?

The rapid tests that each LWCS campus has are for all students or staff who are showing any type of known COVID-19 symptoms. All students/staff will be required to follow up with their medical provider or a PCR COVID-test if the rapid is negative and they are showing symptoms of COVID-19.

○ How many times can I be rapid tested by the school?

You are eligible for one test per day/symptom episode. Example: You present to the clinic with headache/fever, give written consent to test, rapid test shows negative. You will be sent home to follow up with your primary medical doctor or to have PCR test. If you are cleared back to work and then present again to the clinic with known COVID-19 symptoms, you are eligible to be tested again using the rapid test.

○ What will the cost be?

Access to the rapid testing being performed by LWCS Health Services is FREE! The only thing required from you is a signature of consent to test.

- **How is the test performed? Is it painful?**

To collect a nasal swab sample, the trained Health Services professional will carefully insert the absorbent tip of the swab (usually ½ of an inch) into the nostril. Firmly sample the nasal wall by rotating the swab in a circular path against the nasal wall 5 times/15 seconds, then slowly remove from the nostril. Using the same swab, they will repeat the sample collection in the other nostril. There should be no pain associated with the rapid test being administered, deep specimen is not required.

- **What if I haven't signed/turned in the consent form?**

You may sign consent at time of testing.

- **What if I signed my consent, but change my mind?**

You do not have to use this resource. You do not have to consent to testing.

- **What is the benefit of having the rapid testing available if I will still be required to have a PCR test or physicians note back to work, if the rapid test is negative?**

We all know that COVID-19 affects each piece of the population differently. LWCS now has the capability of knowing within 15 minutes if you are positive for this virus-pending there is enough virus to be detected. This could potentially save others from being exposed to a positive case, thus saving their family and our community from spreading this virus.

- **What if I am not having symptoms, I was only exposed to a COVID-19 case? Can I request that they be rapid tested?**

The rapid test (BinaxNOW) that is being used in LWCS clinics is to be used within the first 7 days of symptom onset per manufactures guidelines. The test performance depends on the amount of the virus detected on the sample. If you have recently been identified as a direct contact to someone who has COVID-19 you may consent to a rapid test, before leaving campus to start your quarantine. Once you have left campus to begin quarantine you may not enter campus to be tested. Current CDC guidelines do not require direct contact to be tested.

*COVID-19 guidelines are subject to change as more information becomes available. Lake Wales Charter Schools Health Services Department is dedicated to staying up to date with the most current recommendations. Any changes in procedure would be communicated as needed. Also, each case will be individually evaluated, and is subject to be dealt with differently if guided by the County Health Department.