



Frequently Asked Questions regarding COVID-19 testing and quarantine

○ When/why would my child be rapid tested for COVID-19?

If parental consent is signed and your child is showing symptoms known of COVID-19, the Health Services professional on campus would call and inform you that your child is not feeling well and is currently in the sick clinic. They would then review the COVID-19 testing procedures with you and confirm that signed consent is on file and your consent is still given. The Health Services professional would then perform the nasal swab to screen for COVID-19.

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

If your child tests positive via the rapid test administered at school you will be notified immediately. Your child 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, your child will not be required to test negative before coming back to school. They will be encouraged to follow up with their primary medical provider.

○ What happens if my child tests 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 your child is displaying symptoms known of COVID-19 we will ask they have a confirmatory negative PCR (polymerase chain reaction) COVID-19 test or an alternate diagnosis in written form from their medical provider before allowing them back to school.

○ 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, your child 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 will have, 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 my child be rapid tested at school?

If your child presents to the sick, and consent is given your child will only be eligible one test per day/symptom episode. Example: Child presents to the clinic with headache/fever, consent is on file, rapid test is negative. Child will be sent home to follow up with primary medical doctor or to have PCR test. If child is cleared back to school and then presents again to the clinic with known COVID-19 symptoms, the child is 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?**

If your child presents to the sick clinic, and consent is not on file the Health Services professional on campus will call you to make you aware of your child's symptoms. They will also inform you that you have not given consent for testing. If you choose, you may sign a consent once you arrive at school. Only after written consent is on file can your child be tested.

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

Prior to any testing, you will be notified by the Health Services professional on campus. A review of your signed consent and your verbal consent to test at this time will be required. If you have changed your mind and do not wish for your child tested, you will let the Health Services professional know at the time of the phone notification regarding your child being in the sick clinic. Once on campus, you will be required to amend your consent with a signature and date.

- **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 school, 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 your child is 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 my child is not having symptoms? 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 your child has recently been identified as a direct contact to someone who has COVID-19 you may request that a test be performed before your student is sent home to quarantine per current CDC guidelines for direct contacts. Direct contacts are NOT required 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.