

# DeWitt-Lavaca Special Education Cooperative 2022-2023 COVID-19 Testing Protocols

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## **Overview:**

In accordance with the State of Texas Emergency Management Plan, Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) is responsible for statewide coordination of emergency management activities during disaster response and recovery. COVID-19, the global pandemic, falls into this grouping. In response, TDEM, in association with Texas Education Agency (TEA), has provided a testing support plan for COVID-19.

Yoakum Independent School District (YISD) and DeWitt-Lavaca Special Education Cooperative (DLSEC) have opted in to this voluntary testing program. YISD and DLSEC employees and students, with appropriate signed consents, may be tested for COVID-19 using the protocols outlined in this plan.

With guidance from TDEM, TEA, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), YISD and DLSEC will participate in COVID-19 testing.

Coronavirus disease 2019 commonly referred to as COVID-19 is a disease requiring exclusion from school under 25 Tex. Admin. Code § 97.7.

## **Testing Program Coordinator (Point of Contact):**

Amy Whaley, RN

## **Alternate Testing Coordinator:**

Sandra Brazil, RN

## **Test Administrators:**

Amy Whaley, RN

Sandra Brazil, RN

Bridget Hairell, LVN

## **Purpose:**

Early identification and isolation of positive individuals may decrease the spread of the virus throughout a campus. With guidance from TDEM, CDC, and TEA, designated and trained DLSEC health professionals will conduct COVID-19 testing. Rapid antigen-based testing will potentially give YISD and DLSEC the ability to quickly identify and isolate positive individuals before they can transmit the virus to others. In turn, this will help reduce the amount of absences for individuals waiting on test results, help reduce out-of-pocket testing expenses for staff and parents/guardians, and help to expedite treatment and isolation for positive individuals.

## **General Guidelines:**

- Participation in COVID-19 testing is a voluntary option for each YISD and DLSEC staff member and student.
- COVID-19 testing will be conducted free of charge for YISD and DLSEC students and staff.
- Only authorized test administrators will be permitted to conduct testing.
- Test administrators will receive training in proper procedures for conducting the COVID-19 testing.

- The following individuals may be tested:
  - ✓ Current YISD and DLSEC faculty and staff
  - ✓ Current YISD and DLSEC students
  - ✓ Current members of the YISD Board of Trustees
- Informed consent must be obtained prior to testing.
- Test administrators will submit a weekly summary of tests conducted and the results of the testing to the Testing Program Coordinator every Friday afternoon or the last working day of the week in the event Friday is a holiday.

### **Informed Consent:**

- The test administrator must ensure informed consent.
- Consent will be in written form.
- Consent will be obtained using the official testing consent form.
- Phone consent may be obtained from a parent or guardian *only if* it is witnessed by two YISD or DLSEC full-time employees. In this instance, it should be noted that the consent was received on the phone, the phone number and name of consenting parent/guardian will be documented on the consent form, and both witnesses must sign and date the consent form.

### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):**

- Test administrators will be supplied with all of the necessary PPE for administering the COVID-19 tests.
- While testing, full PPE use is recommended.
- At minimum, while conducting the test, the test administrator must always wear an N95 mask and gloves.
- While testing a symptomatic individual, the test administrator should wear an N95 mask, face shield or goggles, a disposable gown, and gloves.
- PPE may be disposed of in the regular trash receptacle.

### **Screening Testing:**

Screening testing will be offered monthly during low levels of transmission. Screening testing will be offered weekly during medium and high levels of transmission. The CDC recommends the use of three indicators to measure COVID-19 Community Levels:

- New COVID-19 hospital admissions per 100,000 population in the last 7 days
- Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by patients with confirmed COVID-19 (7-day average)
- New COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in the last 7 days

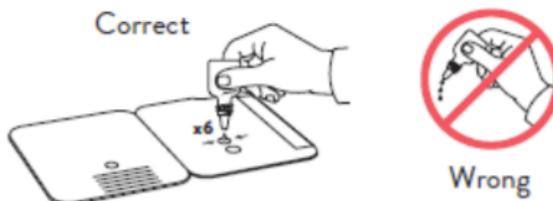
For specific parameters, refer to <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/indicators-monitoring-community-levels.html>.

### **Types of COVID-19 Tests:**

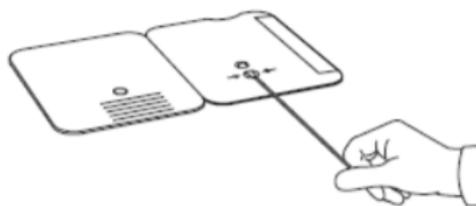
DLSEC will use test kits secured from TEA approved vendors. Currently, DLSEC will use BinaxNOW and GenBody test kits.

## BinaxNOW AG Test Procedures:

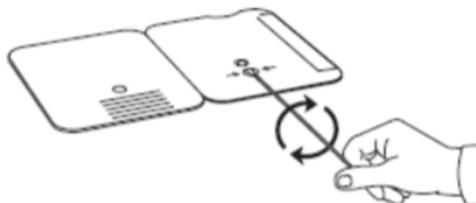
1. Hold Extraction Reagent bottle vertically. Hovering 1/2 inch above the **TOP HOLE**, slowly add **6 DROPS** to the **TOP HOLE** of the swab well. **DO NOT** touch the card with the dropper tip while dispensing.



2. Insert sample into **BOTTOM HOLE** and firmly push upwards so that the swab tip is visible in the **TOP HOLE**.

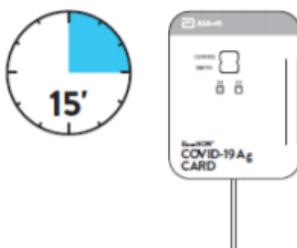


3. Rotate (twirl) swab shaft 3 times **CLOCKWISE** (to the right). Do not remove swab.



**Note:** *False negative results can occur if the sample swab is not rotated (twirled) prior to closing the card.*

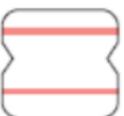
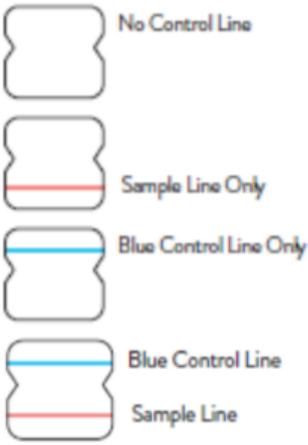
4. Peel off adhesive liner from the right edge of the test card. Close and securely seal the card. Read result in the window 15 minutes after closing the card. In order to ensure proper test performance, it is important to read the result promptly at 15 minutes, and not before. Results should not be read after 30 minutes.



**Note:** *False negative results can occur if test results are read before 15 minutes.*

Note: When reading test results, tilt the card to reduce glare on the result window if necessary. Individuals with color-impaired vision may not be able to adequately interpret test results.

## BinaxNOW AG Test Result Interpretation:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Negative</b><br/>A <b>negative specimen</b> will give a single pink/purple colored Control Line in the top half of the window, indicating a negative result. This Control Line means that the detection part of the test was done correctly, but no COVID-19 antigen was detected.</p> |  <p>Pink/Purple Control Line</p>  |
| <p><b>Positive</b><br/>A <b>positive specimen</b> will give two pink/purple colored lines. This means that COVID-19 antigen was detected. Specimens with low levels of antigen may give a faint Sample Line. Any visible pink/purple colored line is positive.</p>                           |  <p>Pink/Purple Control Line<br/>Pink/Purple Sample Line</p>  |
| <p><b>Invalid</b><br/>If no lines are seen, if just the Sample Line is seen, or the Blue Control Line remains blue, the assay is invalid. Invalid tests should be repeated.</p>  | <p><b>Invalid Result</b></p>  <p>No Control Line<br/>Sample Line Only<br/>Blue Control Line Only<br/>Blue Control Line<br/>Sample Line</p> |

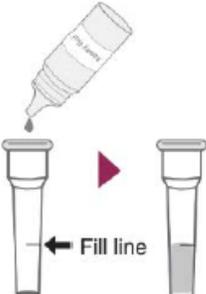
## GenBody AG Test Procedures:

### 1. Sample Collection:

- Remove an anterior nasal swab from the pouch.
- Insert the swab  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch into the RIGHT nostril.
- In a circular motion, rub the swab around the entire wall of the nostril with some pressure. This should be performed for at least 5 circles and 15 seconds.
- Withdraw the swab and repeat the same process in the LEFT nostril.
- Withdraw the swab from the second nostril. Immediately after BOTH nostrils have been swabbed, place the swab into the extraction tube.

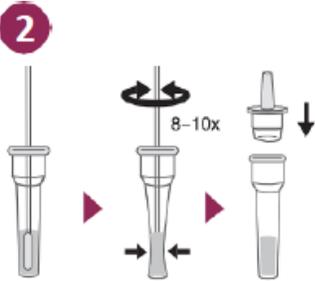
### 2. Test Procedure:

**1**



• Add the Extraction solution to the **Fill Line** indicated on the Extraction Tube.

**2**



- **Insert** the collected specimen swab into the Extraction Solution.
- **Mix** by squeezing the tube and simultaneously rotating the swab 8~10 times.
- Place the **Dropper Tip**.

**3**  • Add 4 drops of the solution to the sample well.

**4**  15~20 min  • Read the test result at 15~20 minutes.  
• Do Not read the results after 20 minutes.

### GenBody Test Result Interpretation:

#### Negative Results

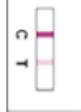


Only one reddish purple line on the control line (C) position appears with no line on the test line position (T).

#### Positive Results

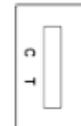


Two reddish purple lines appear in the test window, one on the test line position (T) and the other on the control line position (C).



Any visible reddish purple colored line is positive.

#### Invalid Results



If a line does not appear on the control line position (C) in 15 minutes, the test result is invalid. Re-test with a new GenBody COVID-19 Ag Test Device.



### Test Result Notifications:

Results will be reported to the individual signing the consent form within one hour of completing the test. All test results—positive, negative or inconclusive—will be reported to the vendor through the vendors' web-based portal at a minimum of weekly. Positive results will be reported to the DSHS Region 8 on a weekly basis via a web-based report. This report will not contain personal information and will serve as a total count of positive cases for the designated week.

#### Negative Employee Results:

- ✓ Negative results will be reported by the test administrator to the employee.
- ✓ Negative results will be documented on the bottom of the consent form and filed in the Nurse Supervisor's office for three years.

#### Positive Employee Results:

- ✓ Positive test results will be reported by the test administrator verbally to the employee. The employee will notify his/her supervisor.
- ✓ The test administrator will include the results on the weekly web-based report to the DSHS Region 8.
- ✓ Positive test results will be documented on the bottom of the consent form and filed in the Nurse Supervisor's office for three years.

#### Negative Student Results:

- ✓ Negative results will be reported by the test administrator to the parent/guardian.
- ✓ Negative results will be documented on the bottom of the consent form and filed in the student's health file for three years.

#### Positive Student Results:

- ✓ Positive test results will be reported by the test administrator verbally to the parent/guardian.

- ✓ The test administrator will include the results on the weekly web-based report to the DSHS Region 8.
- ✓ Positive test results will be documented on the bottom of the consent form and filed in the student's health file for three years.

### **Summary of Reporting Guidelines:**

The test administrator will ensure test results will be reported as follows:

1. Results will be reported according to the requirements of the vendor supplying the test kits.
2. All results will be verbally reported to the employee or parent/guardian via a courtesy call within 1 hour of testing.
3. Positive results will be reported to the DSHS Region 8 via a weekly web-based report.

### **Disposition of Tested DLSEC Employees:**

**Positive** results for an individual that does not have signs or symptoms (**asymptomatic**) of COVID-19:

- ✓ The individual must isolate for a minimum of 5 days from the date of the positive test.
- ✓ The individual will be encouraged to follow-up with a personal physician.
- ✓ The individual must meet the return-to-school/work criteria to return. (See "Return-to-Work/School Criteria" below.)
- ✓ Other household members may choose to quarantine for 5 days from the last exposure to the positive individual.
- ✓ If the individual feels the test is a false positive, the individual may be cleared to return to work/school with two negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests conducted 24 hours apart.

**Positive** results for an individual that has symptoms of COVID-19 (**symptomatic**):

- ✓ The individual must isolate for a minimum of 5 days from the onset of symptoms.
- ✓ The individual will be encouraged to follow-up with a personal physician.
- ✓ The individual must meet the return to work/school criteria to return. (See "Return-to-Work/School Criteria" below.)
- ✓ Other household members may choose to quarantine for 5 days from the last exposure to the positive individual.
- ✓ If the individual feels the test is a false positive, the individual may be cleared to return to work/school with two negative COVID-19 PCR tests conducted 24 hours apart.

**Negative** results for an **asymptomatic** individual:

- ✓ The individual may return to work/school and continue to self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
- ✓ Other household members may continue to work or attend school.

**Negative** results for a **symptomatic** individual:

- ✓ Individuals with minor symptoms such as headache, runny nose, nasal congestion, or sore throat may continue to work or attend school.
- ✓ Other household members may continue to work or attend school.
- ✓ Individuals with symptoms such as fever, vomiting, or diarrhea must leave school/work and follow usual sick-day protocols.
- ✓ If an individual has significant symptoms including multiple symptoms, difficulty breathing and/or shortness of breath, the individual will be required to follow-up with a

personal physician and receive medical clearance to return to work/school or isolate for 5 days from onset of symptoms.

### **Return-to-Work/School Criteria:**

As per the DLSEC Strong Start 2022-2023 Action Plan in Response to COVID-19 and DSHS (<https://dshs.texas.gov/covid19readmission/>), to return to school an individual must meet all of the following criteria:

#### For asymptomatic individuals or mild illness:

- ✓ At least 5 days have passed since symptom(s) first appeared, or for asymptomatic individuals, 5 days have passed since the date of positive test results, **AND**
- ✓ At least 1 day (24 hours) has passed since recovery of fever\* without the use of fever-reducing medications, **AND**
- ✓ There is improvement in symptoms such as cough and shortness of breath. Symptoms do not have to be completely gone, but they must be improving.
  - A fever is defined as a temperature greater than or equal to 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

#### For moderate/severe illness (characterized by difficulty breathing, shortness of breath, severe symptoms, or hospitalization) or weakened immune system:

- ✓ At least 10 days have passed since symptom(s) first appeared, **AND**
- ✓ At least 1 day (24 hours) has passed since recovery of fever\* without the use of fever-reducing medications, **AND**
- ✓ There is improvement in symptoms such as cough and shortness of breath. Symptoms do not have to be completely gone, but they must be improving.
  - A fever is defined as a temperature greater than or equal to 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

**NOTE: A negative COVID-19 test is not required to return to work/school.**

### **Exposure Guidance:**

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) does not recommend quarantine for individuals that have been exposed to a positive case of COVID-19. DSHS does recommend the following:

1. Wear a mask for 10 days following the exposure.
2. Get a COVID-19 test on day 6 after exposure.
3. Self-monitor for symptoms. If symptoms develop, isolate immediately and get a COVID-19 test.

### **Calculation of Days:**

Day Zero: The day of testing or the day of onset of symptoms.

Day One: The first day after testing or the first day after the day of onset of symptoms.

### **Biohazard Waste:**

Test cards, whether positive or negative, and bottles of testing solution will be considered biohazardous waste and will be disposed of accordingly. Cards and bottles will be discarded in a biohazard waste receptacle.

**Program Availability:**

Funding and materials for COVID-19 testing in schools is provided from TEA to school districts who choose to participate. If at any time YISD or DLSEC feel it is necessary to cease the local COVID-19 testing program, it will be discontinued with no further notice.

**Testing Coordinator Contact Information:**

For additional information, contact DLSEC Nurse Supervisor Amy Whaley, BSN, RN, at:

Email: [awhaley@dlsec.org](mailto:awhaley@dlsec.org)

Desk Phone: (361) 293-3076

Cell Phone: (361) 208-5775