COVID-19 Testing Information

Presented by: Dr. Harris and Dr. Evans
Date: January 19, 2021
OUR VISION

We envision a culturally relevant, innovative school district that provides a foundation of opportunities for our students to thrive.

OUR MISSION

The mission of Rich Township High School District 227 is to sustain a focus on students and on student success.
COVID-19 Testing

• RTHS administration would like to recommend offering COVID-19 student and staff testing to assist in the safe return to in-person hybrid instruction
  • Rapid test results (15 – 20 minutes), instead of awaiting test results for days
  • Offering a COVID test at school will provide a safer environment for students and staff
  • For positive test results
    • Contact tracing can begin earlier to mitigate the spread of the virus
  • For negative test results
    • Students may have to self-quarantine/isolate at home, take an additional test, or secure an alternate diagnosis
Agenda

• Transmission
• Symptoms
• Who Should Get Tested?
• Contact Tracing
• Process
• Next Steps
• Summary
Transmission

• Human coronaviruses are mostly spread from an infected person to others through:
  • The air by coughing and sneezing
  • Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands
  • Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes before washing your hands

Source: About COVID-19 | IDPH (illinois.gov)
Symptoms

• People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:
  • Fever or chills
  • Cough
  • Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  • Fatigue
  • Muscle or body aches
  • Headache

• New loss of taste or smell
• Sore throat
• Congestion or runny nose
• Nausea or vomiting
• Diarrhea

Source: About COVID-19 | IDPH (illinois.gov)
Fever Threshold

• Per CDC and Illinois Joint Guidance for Schools, it is recommended that schools use 100.4°F or greater as the threshold for fever.

Source: About COVID-19 | IDPH (illinois.gov)
Who Should Test?

• People who have symptoms of COVID-19;
• People who have had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for a total of 15 minutes or more) with someone with confirmed COVID-19; and
• People who have been asked or referred to get testing by their health care provider, or by IDPH or your local health department.
• Individuals we have received consent to test.

Source: About COVID-19 | IDPH (illinois.gov)
Types of Test

• Nasal test
• Results in 15-20 minutes
• Free of charge through the Illinois Department of Public Health
• $30 per test

• Ambry COVID-19 RT-PCR Test
• The saliva test
• Results in 24-48 hours
• $100 per test
• Very limited availability
• Availability from Ambry Genetics
Registration and Reporting Requirements

• All COVID-19 tests and test results must be reported (positives, negatives, and indeterminants).

• Facilities that perform point of care (POC) testing ONLY must use Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) POC Testing Reporting Portal to fulfil COVID-19 reporting requirements for Illinois.
Registration and Reporting Requirements

• The District must register to receive a URL to the point of care (POC) testing reporting portal that is unique to our facility and Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA).

• Electronic reporting is required for all entities performing testing for COVID-19 on Illinois residents.
Contact Tracing

• As K-12 schools resume in-person learning, case investigation and contact tracing with staff, teachers and students should be anticipated as a crucial strategy to reduce further transmission once a case is identified. Along with testing, social distancing, and vaccine (once available), these strategies help to protect the community against COVID-19.

Source: About COVID-19 | IDPH (illinois.gov)
Contact Tracing Process

- Reaching out to people with COVID-19 to identify everyone they had close contact with during the time they may have been infectious
- Notifying contacts of their potential exposure
- Referring those contacts for testing
- Monitoring contacts for signs and symptoms of COVID-19
- Connecting contacts with services they might need to remain at home during the self-quarantine period
- Contact tracing training will be needed
- Contact tracing will be done by our climate and culture staff
Next Steps
Next Steps – Approval of Revisions of Policy 4:180

In-Person Attendance; Health Examination and Testing – During Times of Pandemic

• During a pandemic, the Board may offer to tests related to the pandemic, at the expense of the Board.
• Tests would be voluntary and would be offered to students or staff displaying symptoms whose parents/guardians or staff have provided written consent to such testing.

Nothing in this Policy shall limit the authority of the Board or Superintendent:
1) to require students or employees to provide evidence of a test at their own expense before continuing or returning to in-person attendance and instruction or
2) to require students and employees to comply with guidance of the Illinois Department of Public Health and other governmental health authorities and general health and safety protocols.
Next Steps - Continued

• Communicate to stakeholders about COVID-19 testing availability
• Attain parental and staff consent
• Provide training for nursing staff
• Screen, evaluate and test symptomatic students and staff
• Report the results to the CDC and IDPH
Summary - COVID-19 Testing

• Testing is only one of the essential interventions in the multipronged response to COVID-19 and it will be implemented along with other mitigation strategies such as:
  • Daily temperature checks
  • Daily Pre-screening questionnaire
  • Mask requirement
  • Social distancing
  • Regular filter changes to improve air quality
  • Clean facilities
  • Personal Protective Equipment
Summary

• COVID-19 testing will be offered for students and staff that are in attendance during the school day. Non-RTHS persons will not be tested.

• No testing will be done until the Board of Education approves the policy change.