



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs) Proactive COVID-19 Antigen Testing Program

August 13, 2021

1. What is the COVID-19 testing program for students and staff this school year?

- a. Asymptomatic Surveillance - students and vaccinated staff may voluntarily participate in an 8-9 week cycle of testing Asymptomatic Testing that is scheduled to begin the week of August 23, 2021, pending the delivery of testing materials. Following the first COVID testing cycle, the District will evaluate whether to continue testing for the remainder of the school year.
- b. Symptomatic Response - the District was notified Friday, August 6 that the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is currently experiencing supply shortages to allow SBSB to administer symptomatic response testing for schools across the state. We have been advised that the tentative time frame for replenishing of supplies is September 2021. The District had hoped to support families if their child(ren) was exhibiting symptoms by providing this service at each of our sites. Until further notice, families will need to pick up sick/symptomatic children and reach out to their primary care physician.
- c. Unvaccinated staff will be tested weekly per the Governor's Executive Order issued August 11, 2021, beginning the week of August 23-27.

2. Why is a proactive COVID-19 testing program for students and staff being pursued in the Solana Beach School District again in 2021-22?

Multiple layers of safety mitigation are being recommended by the CDC, CDPH, and SDHHS to prevent the transmission and spread of COVID. SBSB will be continuing a proactive COVID-19 testing program for the first nine weeks of school and then re-evaluating its continuance in mid-October. Asymptomatic testing will help us identify any positive cases with the intent to stop any on campus transmission.

3. What tests are SBSB utilizing this school year?

Currently, BinaxNOW, a lateral flow immunoassay intended for the qualitative detection of nucleocapsid protein antigen from SARS-CoV-2 in nasal swabs, is being implemented for asymptomatic purposes. Nucleocapsid antigen is generally detectable in nasal swabs during the acute phase of infection.

The Rapid PCR CUE Molecular test for response/asymptomatic testing is unavailable to school districts across the state due to a supply shortage. Once there is more information on the schedule to initiate this component of testing, there will be additional information provided.

4. Why is SBSB utilizing a new testing program instead of continuing with UC San Diego Health?

The California Department of Public Health is providing free testing supplies to California schools, BinaxNOW Rapid Antigen and the Rapid PCR CUE Molecular tests. This significantly reduces costs incurred last year..

5. Is asymptomatic COVID-19 testing mandatory?

No, the testing program is voluntary for both in-person students and vaccinated staff. Unvaccinated staff must be tested weekly.

6. If families opt out of testing will their children be moved from the in-person to ImmersiveEDU?

No, ImmersiveEDU is an independent Study model which includes program and parent agreement.

7. If some students are tested and others are not, will schools be separating the classes?

No, classes will not be separated.

8. How does a family opt out of testing?

Families who wish to opt out simply do not pre-register for the SBSB Proactive COVID-19 Testing Program, nor do they go to a testing clinic at their site.

9. How much does testing cost families?

The District's testing program is free to SBSB families. State and federal stimulus money will be used to help cover costs to staff school testing clinics. The cost of the tests is being provided by the California Department of Public Health.

10. What is the process for testing?

- Parent/guardian of student registers on *Primary.Health* portal.
 - Onsite registration is available but parents should expect a longer wait time if registering onsite.
- *Primary.Health* will send you an email and text message confirmation once you're enrolled.
- Parent/guardian brings student to school on identified testing day and time
- Parent/guardian provides student name(s) at check in if pre-registered

- Parent/guardian completes onsite registration if preregistration was not completed. Please expect delays.
- Student self-administers BinaxNOW COVID-19 Rapid Antigen test (parent supervision permitted)
- Test results are available in 15-30 minutes.
- All tests are logged into the *Primary.Health* secure portal by trained SBSB staff
- *Primary.Health* and the District nurse notify San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) of all positive results
- District nurse notifies Coordinator of Student Services and site Principal
- A positive test result will require the student(s) to be sent home (along with siblings of that student) immediately
 - Parent/guardian is strongly advised to obtain a secondary molecular/ PCR test with their primary care physician within 48 hours
 - Parent/guardian is expected to notify the District nurse of a positive or negative molecular test result
- If the secondary test is positive, student is to isolate for 10 days from test date and may return to school on day 11. If the secondary test is negative, the health department determines whether the case is deemed positive or negative. Only the health department may determine a false positive.
- Sibling(s) is/are to quarantine (district nurse will provide guidance on quarantine days)
- District nurse and family develop a return to school/class timeline
- All information is maintained in accordance with applicable law.

11. What is the asymptomatic testing schedule for the fall?

The 2021-22 SBSB Proactive COVID-19 Testing Program schedule will be communicated out to families on August 18, 2021, by school site principals, and then posted on the site's and district's website. It is important to note that this schedule is subject to change based on current trends with our local and county metrics.

12. Once a child tests positive for COVID-19, when is that child allowed back to school (onsite)? -

Please refer to the following handout for specific details - [Student Quarantine Process](#). Please remember that parents/guardians of any student who has a positive COVID-19 test result are required to report the information to school officials.

13. When is a school or the district required to close?

In consultation with the Local Health Officer, individual school closure is recommended based on the number of cases, specifically the percentage of teacher/students/staff that are positive for COVID-19, **at least 5 percent** of the total number of teachers/student/staff cases within a 14-day period.

At this time, the metric the state has given school districts for closure includes:

- 5% of the school population (students, teachers, and staff)
- 25% of the district population (students, teachers and staff)

14. Can families find out the percent of students in their child's class who took a COVID-19 test?

No, all test information remains confidential between *Primary.Health* and the District.

15. What happens if my child tests positive for COVID-19? How will my child continue with schoolwork and class time?

Schools will work with families regarding how best to continue each student's learning progression. Each situation will be assessed and managed individually. Please remember, parents/guardians of any student who has a positive COVID-19 test result are required to report the information to school officials.

16. What if my child has a cold and can present a negative COVID test?

If your child has a cold with COVID-like symptoms they can return to school with a negative molecular COVID test AND after 24 hours fever free (without the use of fever-reducing medications) AND their symptoms are improving.

[Link to Student Quarantine Process](#)

17. What happens if a parent/household member tests positive for COVID-19, but the child tests negative?

If a student has come into close contact (defined as less than 6' of physical distancing for more than 15 minutes in a 24-hour period, which is most likely the case with a parent, sibling, or household member), we encourage the family to consult directly with their physician and notify the school. The student will need to self-quarantine for 14 days; if symptoms develop within these 14 days, the timeline is further extended. We will work in collaboration with families when something like this happens.

18. Can you guarantee that the nasal swabs are being destroyed upon test completion?

Yes, all materials such as nasal swabs are being destroyed according to proper disposal protocols by trained SBS staff.

19. Does the swab stay in each nostril for four seconds or for 10-15 seconds?

The swab is rotated in a circular motion for 15 seconds in each of the nares.

20. Do the technicians change gloves each time they test?

Yes, gloves are changed in between each student/staff member, even if a test is not administered.

21. If a teacher is quarantined but the cohort is not, will a substitute teacher not be provided?

Please note that if a teacher is sick and unable to teach, a substitute will be provided to continue online learning. If the teacher is home, but still able to remote in, he/she can do so with a substitute teacher in the room to support.

22. What is the sensitivity and specificity percentages for the rapid antigen test?

The COVID-19 BinaxNOW test has an 84.6 sensitivity and a 98.5 specificity. This means that there is a 15.4% rate of false positives and a 1.5% rate of false negatives.

23. What is the process if an individual believes they have received a “false positive” test result?

The following information, including the protocol, was developed by the San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (SDHSA) and will be followed in the event of a suspected false positive result in SBSD.

“False Positive” Defined: When there is a positive result but the individual does not have the virus.

Determination of False Positive: The San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HSA) epidemiology department along with their team of doctors are the only ones that can make the determination whether the positive test result is indeed a false positive.

If an individual receives a positive COVID test result.

1. The individual must isolate.
2. Close direct contacts must quarantine.

An individual believes the result is a false positive.

1. The individual should communicate with the district nurse that they are contesting the original positive test result. The district nurse will notify SDHHSA epidemiology.
2. The individual may also communicate directly with SDHHSA and/or the contact tracer who was assigned to their case to contest their test result.
3. SDHHSA will contact the individual to provide the procedures to reevaluate their test results including having the individual submit any new test results, physician letter, etc.
4. Doctors in epidemiology will review all submitted documents, including all lab work, to determine if the results are:
 - a. Positive, or
 - b. False Positive
5. While the case is being investigated, the individual must remain in isolation and all individuals who were in direct close contact must remain in quarantine.

If an individual is determined to have a false positive:

1. SDHHSA will notify the individual of the false positive.
2. SDHHSA will notify SBSB of the false positive.
3. The individual does not need to isolate.
4. Close contacts do not need to quarantine.
5. SBSB will notify those in quarantine and excluded.

SBSB Notification Protocol:

- District nurse contacts Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Coordinator of Student Services, and Principal
- Principal contacts:
 - Classroom Teacher - Notified of the need to no longer quarantine and to prepare to return to in-person instruction
 - Quarantining Class - Inform families that there is no more need to continue to quarantine
- Principal sends communication to the class about when school will resume for in-person instruction

24. Where can I get more information about BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card?

[Click here](#) for a fact guide