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Karnes City Independent School District

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404 North Highway 123
Karnes City, Texas 78118-3016
(830) 780-2321 – Fax (830) 780-3823

Karnes City ISD is a bridge that leads individuals to be productive members of society who have a moral, ethical compass.

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Dear KCISD Parents and Staff,

In Karnes City ISD, we are committed to doing all we can to keep staff and students healthy and safe. With this goal in mind, we are pleased to share that we will be taking part in a statewide program offering rapid tests for use in schools. This program will allow Karnes City ISD to test both symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals—including staff and students-- and reduce the risk to our school community. This email offers further information on the tests and the testing program. If you have additional questions, you can contact Nurse Bluhm at 830-780-2321 or email her at bbluhm@kcisd.net.

What COVID-19 tests are used in this program?

This program uses [BinaxNOW tests](#), which provide results in 15 minutes and are administered using a nasal swab in the front area of the nostril. These tests have been shown to be highly accurate, with accuracy rates of 97-98% for symptomatic individuals.

Who will be tested and when?

4 Phases to COVID-19 testing:

Phase 1: Rapid COVID-19 testing for symptomatic staff members only.

Phase 2: Rapid COVID-19 testing for symptomatic staff and students. Individuals less than the age of 18 must have parent/guardian permission before testing can be performed.

Phase 3: Rapid COVID-19 testing same as phase 1 and 2 with the addition of asymptomatic and exposure to COVID staff members.

Phase 4: Rapid COVID-19 testing same as phases 1, 2 and 3 but adding asymptomatic and exposure to COVID students. Individuals less than age of 18 must have parent/guardian permission before testing can be performed.

In Karnes City ISD, we will be offering these tests to as long as testing kits are available. These tests are optional, but we encourage symptomatic individuals to participate in the testing program.

Additionally, Karnes City ISD will roll-out the phases based on kit availability and district needs.

How will the information from the tests be used?

If a parent has given permission for Karnes City ISD to administer the BinaxNOW test for their child, your child's school will call you to let you know that your student is experiencing symptoms and that they will be administering a BinaxNOW test. The test administrator will also

call to share the results after the test has been administered. Additionally, the student's parent or guardian will receive test results via text within 30 minutes and will also receive a confirmation email within 24 hours.

The results will also be shared with the school/district and with the local health department to allow for public health reporting and contact tracing and to determine the stay-at-home period for individuals who test positive. Additionally, the total number of positive tests per school will also be shared with the Texas Department of State Health Services as is required by law.

What happens next?

Tests are available to all students who are showing symptoms of COVID-19. To participate, parents must complete the permission form. The first date testing will be available is Tuesday, November 17, 2020.

If your child is experiencing symptoms and you would like for him/ her to be tested, please do NOT send him/her to campus. Instead, take them to your family doctor.

Thank you,

Hector Madrigal