

Karnes City ISD Plan for COVID-19 Rapid Testing

Goal of Testing: With guidance from the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM), Center for Disease Control (CDC), Texas Education Agency (TEA), Karnes County and Cities Health District (KCCHD) and Baylor Scott and White; Karnes City ISD will be implementing a phased-in approach to BinaxNOW rapid COVID-19 testing. Rapid antigen-based testing will potentially give Karnes City ISD 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 and help to fast track treatment and quarantine for positive individuals and their close contacts. Participation in BinaxNOW rapid COVID-19 testing is voluntary according to each individual's preference.

Testing coordinator and testing administrator were chosen from guidelines provided by TEA.

Testing Program Coordinator (Point of Contact): Bernadette Bluhm

Backup: Terri Jauer

Test Administrators (Overseer of Testing) : Bernadette Bluhm, Terri Jauer

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.

Phase 1 Protocol: Voluntary Symptomatic Staff Members

Phase 1 is voluntary testing for symptomatic staff members at Karnes City ISD. No one will be required to take a test. They may voluntarily receive the rapid antigen BinaxNOW COVID-19 test after scheduling with the Karnes City ISD Health Office at a time when a test administrator is available. The symptoms must be consistent with the current guidelines from the CDC and KCCHD. Symptoms are listed below.

1. Sick at Home: If a staff member is sick at home and they want a test, they may call the Health Office and schedule this test. We will offer a drive up to the back of school (for privacy) and perform the test outside to reduce the risk of exposure to others. Test administrators will be provided PPE to reduce the risk of exposure.
2. Sick at School: If a staff member gets sick while at school, they will be asked to immediately go to the isolation room and may volunteer to receive a test. If they choose

not to test or wish to go home, they may do so immediately. This must be done quickly to reduce the spread of the virus.

3. If the test is negative, the staff member should still follow-up with their physician to rule out COVID or receive an alternative diagnosis.
4. If the test is positive, the staff member will be required to stay home for 10 days once symptoms begin to improve. They will also be encouraged to call their physician to let them know.

Symptoms of COVID: (list from CDC)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

1. Fever or chills
2. Cough
3. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
4. Fatigue
5. Muscle or body aches
6. Headache
7. New loss of taste or smell
8. Sore throat
9. Congestion or runny nose
10. Nausea or vomiting
11. Diarrhea

Phase 2 Protocol: Voluntary Symptomatic Students

Phase 2 is voluntary testing of symptomatic students at Karnes City ISD. The symptoms must be consistent with the current guidelines from the CDC and KCCHD. No student will be required to take the test and all students must have parent permission prior to having the test performed. Parent permission slips will be available online, in the health office and will be sent home with information about the test. If the form is filled out in advance, the parents will still be notified prior to any testing.

1. If the test is negative, the symptomatic student will be sent home following symptomatic protocol. The student should still follow-up with their physician to rule out COVID or receive an alternative diagnosis.
2. If the test is positive, the student will be required to stay home for 10 days once symptoms begin to improve. They will also be encouraged to call their physician to let them know.

Phase 3 Protocol: Voluntary Asymptomatic Staff Members

Phase 3 is voluntary testing of asymptomatic staff members and close contact staff members. Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of a COVID positive individual for greater than 15 consecutive minutes. The staff members are not required to have symptoms. This is voluntary testing and will be performed as long as testing kits are available. These tests will be scheduled when a test administrator is available.

1. If results come back negative, the staff member is not symptomatic and has no history of exposure they can return to work.
2. If the results come back negative, the staff member is asymptomatic but has a history of exposure/close contact then that staff member must remain on quarantine. A negative test does not allow the individual to be removed from quarantine. It may still take up to 14 days to test positive if there was an exposure.

Phase 4 Protocol: Voluntary Asymptomatic Students

Phase 4 is voluntary testing of asymptomatic students and close contact students. Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of a COVID positive individual for greater than 15 cumulative minutes. The students are not required to have symptoms. Parent permission must be provided prior to any testing. Parent permission slips will be available online, in the health office and will be sent home with information about the test. The voluntary testing will be available as long as testing kits are available. These tests will be scheduled when a test administrator is available.

1. If results come back negative, the student is asymptomatic and has no history of exposure they can return to school.
2. If the results come back negative, the student is asymptomatic, but has a history of exposure/close contact then that student must remain on quarantine. A negative test doesn't allow the individual to be removed from quarantine. It may still take up to 14 days to test positive if there was an exposure.
3. If the results come back positive, the student must follow quarantine protocols. The student will be asked to follow-up with their physician and stay home for 10 days.
4. Karnes City ISD plans to implement each phase as deemed appropriate over the course of the next few months. We want to address and educate our staff and community about the type of testing, the science behind it and the recommendations and policies Karnes City ISD has put in place as directed by KCCHD, CDC and TEA.

All test results will be submitted to the KCCHD, DSHS and TDEM as required.