

11/3/2020

Dear Bobcat Parents,

In FISD, 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 Fruitvale 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.

**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.

Test administrators will go through training on administering the COVID test to staff and students,

**Who will be tested and when?**

Permission forms will be distributed to all students and staff, those who wish to participate in this program will turn in the permission forms. This is not a requirement for any person to participate it is just an additional free option for testing for students and staff members only. Fruitvale ISD will provide testing to any symptomatic student or staff member who requests to be tested, and we will also provide testing to asymptomatic persons who have been in close contact with a positive COVID 19 individual. This will allow us to quickly identify cases and remove them from campus, as well as monitor close contact individuals who may continue to attend school.

**How will the information from the tests be used?**

If a parent has given permission for Fruitvale 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.

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 distributed by the office. The first available testing date will be after the state ships the test to the district.

If your child is experiencing symptoms at home, and you would like for him/ her to be tested, please do NOT send him/her to campus. Instead, call Karla Hance at the school at 903-896-4363, and set up a time for testing, and she will make arrangements to test that does not endanger other students or staff on campus.