



# San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District

P.O. Box 1087 | San Marcos, Texas 78666 | OFFICE 512.393.6700 | FAX 512.393.6787

## SAN MARCOS CISD 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) and Hays County; San Marcos CISD will be implementing a phased-in approach to BinaxNOW rapid COVID-19 testing. Rapid antigen based testing will potentially give SMCISD 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):** Doug Wozniak

**Backup:** Dyanna Eastwood

**Test Administrators (Overseer of Testing) :** TBD

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

**STAFF-** voluntary testing will be available for symptomatic staff members of SMCISD. No one will be required to take a test. They may voluntarily receive the rapid antigen BinaxNOW COVID-19 test after scheduling with the individual campus administrator at a time when a test administrator is available. The symptoms must be consistent with the current guidelines from the CDC and WCCHD. Symptoms are listed below.

1. Sick at Home: If a staff member is sick at home and they want a test, they may call their individual campus administrator 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.
  - If the test is negative, the staff member should still follow-up with their physician to rule out COVID or receive an alternative diagnosis.
  - If the test is positive, the staff member will be required to stay home for 10 days and can return after the time period is up, are fever free for 24 hours and symptoms have improved. They will also be encouraged to call their physician to let them know.



# San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District

P.O. Box 1087 | San Marcos, Texas 78666 | OFFICE 512.393.6700 | FAX 512.393.6787

## Symptoms of COVID: (list from CDC)

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

- 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

**STUDENTS-** voluntary testing of symptomatic students will be offered to students at San Marcos CISD. The symptoms must be consistent with the current guidelines from the CDC and WCCHD. 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 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.

- If the test is negative, the symptomatic student will be sent back to class in most cases. However, the campus nurse will make the final decision as to whether or not the student should be sent home. The nurse may advise that the student should still follow-up with their physician to rule out COVID or receive an alternative diagnosis.
- If the test is positive, the student will be required to stay home for 10 days and may return after the time period is up, are fever free for 24 hours and have improving symptoms. They will also be encouraged to call their physician to let them know.

## What is the test?

If a staff member or student is symptomatic, they will receive a free BinaxNOW rapid test for the COVID-19 virus with consent. Collecting a specimen for testing involves using a swab, similar to a Q-Tip, placed inside the tip of the nose. A school staff member who has been trained to use this test will collect the specimen and a trained COVID-19 test administrator will oversee the process. The results will be formally sent by text message and/or email within 24 hours of the test but a phone call will be made to the parent immediately after the results with a verbal explanation. Generally, results will be available in approximately 15 minutes.

## Not Mandatory

This program is **entirely optional** for students and staff, although we hope that symptomatic individuals choose to have the test to keep our schools as healthy & safe as possible. The tests are being offered in addition to existing safety protocols such as mask-wearing, social distancing, and frequent disinfection of surfaces.

## Asymptomatic Individuals

Hays County is currently offering free testing. Please check the website for locations and times. SMCISD encourages all asymptomatic individuals to take advantage of this service and get tested regularly.