



AN EARLY COLLEGE DISTRICT

# BROWNSVILLE

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

## COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

### Rapid Tests and Vaccine

#### Rapid Tests

**1. What type of rapid antigen tests does BISS offer its staff and students?**

- The state is using [Abbott BinaxNow Ag Card Tests](#). These credit card-sized rapid tests potentially be largely self-administered through a nasal swab and deliver results in 15 minutes.
- The ABBOTT - BinaxNow Antigen Immunoassay Test detects the presence of a specific viral antigen, which implies current viral infection. This test kit is a screening tool that identifies the presence of viral antigens (SARS-CoV-2) in the body.

**2. Do I have to meet the definition of Close Contact to be tested?**

- No, any staff member or student who wishes to be tested can be tested. However, the staff member must notify the campus COVID coordinator.

**3. Where are the Rapid Tests administered in our district?**

- The Rapid Tests are administered Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8 a.m. – 10 a.m. at the Wellness Center.

**4. If I want to be tested, do I need an appointment?**

- No, you do not need to schedule an appointment; however, you must inform your campus/department COVID coordinator so that he/she can provide the *Close Contact Verification Form*. Each staff member that will be tested needs to bring a copy of this form to the Wellness Center.

**5. What are the differences between an antigen, PCR and antibody test?**

- The antigen tests identify the virus by detecting the proteins from the virus.
- The molecular test (RT-PCR) detects the virus's genetic material to see if you have an active coronavirus infection.
- An antibody test looks for antibodies that are made by your immune system in response to a threat.

**6. How accurate is the Rapid Test?**

- [Abbott evaluated](#) its test in 102 patients who had shown COVID-19 symptoms for less than 7 days and compared the results with a PCR test. This analysis showed that BinaxNOW has a:
  - sensitivity (true positive rate) of 97.1%
  - specificity (true negative rate) of 98.5%.

## **7. Who is the Test Coordinator at BISD?**

- Test Coordinator: Dustin Garza, Director of Employee Benefits/Risk Management
- Alternate contact: Alonso Guerrero, Director of Health Services

## **8. Who will be administering the Rapid tests in our district?**

- Six school nurses, along with Mr. Garza and Mr. Guerrero, are certified test administrators who are authorized to conduct the rapid ABBOTT - BinaxNow test procedure.

## **9. How long does the Rapid Test take to get results?**

- After the test is obtained using a sterile swab, the [ABBOTT - BinaxNow Card](#) takes 15 minutes to return a result. Official results from the state will be delivered to the individual via the email and text provided during registration between 1 to 2 hours from taking the test.

## **10. If my results are positive, what do I do?**

- A. Employee/student to remain home in self ISOLATION for 14 days from the onset of symptoms -
- at least one day (24 hours) has passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
  - the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
  - at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- B. Notify immediate supervisor and Carmelita Rodriguez, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Department.

## **Vaccine FAQ**

### **1. When will teachers be eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine?**

The COVID-19 vaccine will be distributed to qualifying providers across the state who will administer these immunizations based on the Vaccine Distribution Principles developed by the state's Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel (EVAP). At this time, TEA does not have any information beyond what has already been publicly shared. When further updates are available on which groups of individuals will next be eligible to receive the vaccine, we will join other Texas state agencies in promoting that information.

### **2. I am eligible to receive the vaccine, is there a cost associated with obtaining the vaccine?**

No. The recipient of the vaccine will not be required to pay any out of pocket expense to obtain the vaccine. Please see the Center for Disease Control (CDC) FAQ related to paying for the COVID-19 vaccine for more general information

### **3. Can a school district require an eligible educator to receive the vaccine?**

The current COVID-19 vaccination process will be voluntary and left up to each individual to determine if it is the right course of action for that individual to take. The current COVID-19 vaccines were authorized under the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA); therefore, vaccination cannot be required by employers. Once a vaccine is formally approved by the FDA, employers may choose to require employees to obtain that vaccine.

### **4. Will schools be used as vaccination administration sites?**

The COVID-19 vaccine will be distributed to qualifying facilities, organizations or healthcare providers licensed to possess or administer vaccine or provide vaccination services who will administer these vaccines. At this point, schools have not been identified as vaccine administration sites, and school staff are not responsible for administering vaccines.