Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is Shield Testing?
SHIELD Illinois is a free screening testing program and infrastructure that deploys the University of Illinois' innovative saliva test across the state. It's open to all K-12 public schools across Illinois.

Q: How doesShield work in District 75 and 120?
Shield operates in our schools with free weekly tests for students. All asymptomatic students are eligible, regardless of their vaccination status. This program requires a parent's consent. It helps identify those students who may be COVID-19 positive but not experiencing symptoms. If you have not yet filled the SHIELD Opt-in google form, please use the link below based on school building. (Please note, new entries could take up to two weeks before those students will begin to test.)

Mundelein High School
Carl Sandburg Middle School form
Mechanics Grove Elementary School form
Washington Early Learning Center form
Lincoln Early Learning Center form

Q: What is the Test-to-stay protocol?
A: Our "Test-to-Stay" option allows asymptomatic students to avoid quarantine and remain in school by testing on days one, three, five and seven days after coming in close contact with a potentially infected individual at school. A school staff member will contact the parents of any child who may be eligible for the test-to-stay option.

Q: How is exposure defined for the Test-to-Stay program?
A: This is defined by using the Lake County Department of Public Health's Test-to-Stay Decision Tree. Parents/guardians will be notified if their child is a close contact.

Q: Does it matter if the student is vaccinated or unvaccinated to be eligible for the Test-to-Stay option?
A: There is typically no quarantine needed for vaccinated asymptomatic students, so the Test-to-Stay option is not always necessary. (Depending on the circumstance, the Lake County Department of Public Health may ask a vaccinated student to be tested). For the unvaccinated, the Test-to-Stay option will allow asymptomatic students to stay in school as long as they meet the requirements of the option and continue to test negative for COVID-19.

Q: What if a student tests positive?
A: If your child tests positive, please notify the school as soon as possible. Please isolate your child at home until you receive further instruction from the Lake County Health Department. Anyone testing positive for COVID-19 would have to isolate for 10 calendar days from the onset of symptoms and may return on day 11 if symptom-free.

Q: How do I know my medical information won't be shared with others?

A: All information is protected under the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA). All information will remain private and not shared.

Q: Where can I be tested for COVID-19 in the community?
A: Lake County locations that provide testing are listed at this link.

Q: What are the rules for vaccination in District 75 or District 120 schools?
A: The CDC recommends everyone 12 and older get a COVID-19 vaccination.If you are interested in getting vaccinated against COVID-19, we're happy to provide you with information about vaccination locations. Being vaccinated is not a requirement for attending schools in District 75 or District 120.

State-supported mass vaccination sites, local health departments, pharmacy partners – every jurisdiction that receives vaccine from the state's vaccine allocation – are fully open to all 12 years of age and above. All populations in Illinois, including individuals who are undocumented, can receive the vaccine. No one will be turned away if they want to be vaccinated. Those under 18 need a parent or guardian present at the time of vaccination.

Q: Where can I be vaccinated for COVID-19?
A: To find a vaccination location near you, click here or go to coronavirus.illinois.gov or call the hotline at 1-833-621-1284.
Sites are also listed on this flyer.
Información sobre ubicaciones de vacunas.