

**TCS 2021  
COVID Protocols for  
Parents/Guardians**

**Welcome!**

Welcome to everyone and thank you for attending tonight! Special thanks to Dr. Muriel Jean-Jacques and Dr. Michael Angarone from our Health Advisory Committee for being here to answer questions.



## Covid-19 Safety Measures

- **Vaccination**
- **Masking**
- **SHIELD BlnaxNow testing**
- **Social Distancing**
- **Cohorting**
- **Handwashing**
- **Outdoor time**



Our top 3 strategies for mitigating COVID-19 transmission at school are vaccination (all faculty/staff are fully vaccinated along with most students 12 and older); universal masking indoors as required by IDPH, and brand new this year a testing program consisting of weekly saliva SHIELD testing of unvaccinated individuals along with BlnaxNOW nasal swab testing for vaccinated or unvaccinated individuals who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19.

Note that we will generally not require masks while outdoors, except teachers have requested to have the discretion to require masks when they know children will be playing closely together.

Other safety measures will be very similar to last year: we will encourage social distancing, 3-6 feet of distance between individuals EXCEPT for limited periods of time and for specific academic or play purposes; cohorting by wing (Pond K-2, Lake 3-5, and Ocean 6-8); handwashing/hand sanitizing upon entering the building, before and after eating, before and after using restroom, before and after using shared materials; lots of outdoor time, including lunch and recess outdoors every day; windows kept open for ventilation in classrooms.

Note also parents'/guardians' role in keeping children home when sick and following safety measures while outside of school.

We know from last year that TCS students, families, teachers, and staff can and will do an excellent job of complying with all safety protocols and we believe that like last year we will see limited or no transmission of COVID-19 while at school.



## ABOUT OUR TEST



	<b>Identify Infection</b>	covidSHIELD takes a proactive approach to identify pre-symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals to allow those individuals to quarantine, reducing virus spread.
	<b>Fast Results</b>	Results will be sent to the school and IDPH through a HIPAA compliant health records portal within 24 hours of samples reaching our lab.
	<b>Low/ No Cost</b>	The SHIELD Illinois saliva-based PCR test is FREE to private schools.
	<b>High Accuracy</b>	In a recent clinical trial, covidSHIELD's sensitivity (false negatives) was 96.8% and specificity (false positives) was 98.9%.
	<b>CLIA Certified</b>	All of SHIELD Illinois' tests are processed in CLIA labs located throughout the state. SHIELD provides both the CLIA waiver and the doctor's order.
	<b>Easy to Collect</b>	The covidSHIELD test is non-invasive and doesn't require a healthcare professional.
	<b>FDA Authorization</b>	covidSHIELD received emergency use authorization (EUA) from the FDA to test symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals. Individuals who test positive don't need to seek a second test result to confirm the result.

We are pleased to partner with University of Illinois to offer weekly SHIELD testing of all unvaccinated individuals.

We do expect and need every family to consent to testing since this strategy works on a community health level and will only be effective if everyone participates.

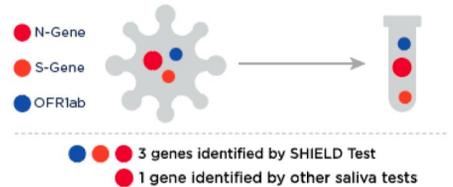
Note that in response to a question Dr. Angarone noted that it is possible SHIELD testing could be expanded by U of I to include vaccinated individuals as well.

## SHIELD'S PCR TEST IS HIGHLY ACCURATE AND CAN SCREEN FOR VARIANTS



**covidSHIELD detects three genes** of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, unlike most PCR tests, which only detect 1 gene.

- This allows the test to identify pre-symptomatic and asymptomatic cases, as two of the three genes must be present to label a sample as “positive.” This makes it extremely accurate in detecting positive and negative results.
- As the virus mutates, SHIELD’s test may have superior detection abilities compared to a one-gene approach and **can screen for variants of concern.**



The SHIELD test is highly accurate at identifying pre-symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals, thus preventing transmission of COVID-19 in the crucial 24-48 hours before symptoms appear.

## COLLECTION PROCESS



A patient checks in by confirming their identity, then a barcoded label is associated with their sample vial



The patient deposits a small amount of saliva in a vial, then screws on the vial's cap



The patient places the vial in a rack and leaves the collection site



Samples are taken to the nearest available lab for testing



Results are delivered within 24 hours of samples reaching lab

The collection process is simple and doable by all ages. We will collect saliva samples by classroom, scan and label them, and deliver them to Loyola Medical Center in Maywood for processing. Results will be available to TCS, the Illinois Department of Public Health, and parents within 24 hours.

### Close Contact Guidance



- **Classroom exposures (unvaccinated):**
  - Less than 3-feet is considered close contact with a mask
  - Less than 6-feet is considered a close contact without a mask
- **Indoor exposure (non classroom):**
  - Less than 6-feet is considered a close contact.
- **Outdoor exposure:**
  - Outdoor activities (i.e. outdoor sports, recess, etc.) with or without masks are not considered close contacts
- **Vaccinated Individuals:**
  - Considered close contacts based on exposure combined with symptoms
  - If symptoms develop after exposure, vaccinated individual must isolate

### Testing screening recommendations



- **When community transmission is moderate or high:**
  - Screening for all unvaccinated individuals should occur weekly
- **When transmission is low:**
  - All unvaccinated staff should be screened regardless of community transmission
  - Students who are part of extracurricular activities should be screened weekly
- **Outbreak Testing**
  - IDPH highly recommends 2x/week testing for two weeks of all exposed individual for 28 days.
  - An outbreak is when two or more COVID-19 infections occur in the school district within 14 calendar days of each other that are epidemiologically linked (not household or shared exposure).

The new CDC definition of close contacts in schools states that an individual within 3-6 feet of a positive COVID case is not considered a close contact if both individuals were masked. Thus we are setting up classrooms and other spaces so that students will be sitting at least 3 feet apart at all times. Of course we may have close contacts during times when students are closer than 3 feet indoors--but again teachers will be mindful of limiting contact within 3 feet while indoors and allowing it only for specific academic or play purposes.

## QUARANTINE ALTERNATIVES + TEST TO STAY PROGRAM



If an individual is a close contact, these quarantine options are available:

### Option 1

Individual quarantines for  
14-days (non-vaccinated  
individuals)

### Option 2

If no symptoms are present,  
quarantine is reduced to  
10 days  
+ Test on days 11, 12, 13, 14

### Option 3

A negative PCR test taken on  
day 6 or after, post exposure,  
can reduce quarantine to  
7 days

### Option 4: Test to Stay Program\*

- **If an individual is a close contact and tests on days 1, 3, 5, 7 with an EUA authorized test (PCR or antigen) and results are negative, the individual is not required to quarantine.**
  - If testing is not possible due to a weekend or a holiday, test as soon as possible.
  - School should notify LHD upon completion of Test to Stay program.
  - If close contact develops symptoms, they should immediately isolate.
- **To participate in the Test to Stay Program, these steps must be followed:**
  - School must require masks for all individuals regardless of vaccination status; and both the infected individual and the close contact must have been wearing masks at time of exposure.
  - Exception: Household exposures

\*SHIELD is only able to provide "Test to Stay" testing if school district is participating in weekly testing program.

Oak Park Health Department allows only Options 1 (14-day quarantine) or 2 (10-day quarantine with negative test result on Days 11, 12, 13, and 14). The test for Option 2 must be proctored (not administered by you at home) and we are able to offer it to TCS students or staff at 8 am daily, allowing time for administering the nasal swab and waiting 15 minutes to obtain results, all before the school day begins.

## BinaxNow

- Antigen test - EUA authorized
- Nasal Swab (inserted only 1"-1.5")
- Results in 15 minutes
- Must be proctored
- Use when symptoms are present
- Unvaccinated & Vaccinated
- Results reported to parents & VOP
- Only available to enrolled students & faculty



This nasal swab test can be self-administered by students with instructions from Pamela Freese or Christy Martin, or administered by them if the child is unable to self-administer.



## [Suburban Cook County travel guidance](#)

“Any unvaccinated people traveling from [travel-advisory states and territories] are advised to obtain a negative COVID-19 test result no more than 72 hours prior to arrival in Cook County or quarantine for a 10-day period upon arrival. Vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine or receive a negative test.”

For domestic travel we will follow Cook County travel guidance (above), which is slightly different from CDC travel guidance.

For international travel we will follow CDC recommendations:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/map-and-travel-notice.html#travel-1>.

## Remote Learning During COVID Quarantine

Teachers will:

- Prepare materials to go home
- “Beam in” students for periods of instruction
- Provide independent work assignments
- Hold 1:1 Zoom meetings with student 1-3 times weekly
- Pond or Lake Google classrooms with Library, Art, P.W., Music activities



If students need to quarantine for COVID purposes, teachers will have multiple different ways of keeping your student(s) learning while at home. The exact methods will vary by age. Older students can expect to “beam in” for instructional periods and to follow roughly the same routine as the in-person students. Younger children will not “beam in” to the classroom but will instead be provided with materials for parents/guardians to pick up at school for learning activities at home. Teachers will hold 1:1 Zoom meetings with your student to explain materials, answer questions, and just stay connected. For K-5 students we will offer access to Google classrooms that house activities and materials from P.W., Library, Art, and Music-- i.e., workout routines, read-alouds, recordings of Chorus songs, and art activities.

Please note that these remote learning options are available ONLY for students who must stay home due to COVID quarantining requirements. If a student is absent for any other reason--a non-COVID illness, family travel, feeling tired--teachers will not be offering remote learning accommodations.



## Coming soon:

- Consent to test form - expecting all families to consent. If you are considering opting out of testing please call the office asap so we can discuss your situation.
- Family Safety Agreement - agreeing to minimize risk of exposure to COVID for student/family for the school year
- Before Care/After Care sign up details
- Chess sign up details
- Friday afternoon extended day sign up details
- Back to school testing on days 11, 12, 13, 14 will be at school at 8 am.
- NOTE: Before Care/Extended Day/AfterCare only available to students who participate in regular testing.

We owe you so many things! Please look for these items later this week. Thank you for your continued patience and flexibility as we once again begin a school year with many safety protocols in place but also prepared to make changes as needed.

Check out our new  
stage curtain!!  
→



**Thank you!**

**Questions?**

Questions:

- Travel questions: does every student need to present a negative COVID test before the first day of school?  
No. We are asking families to comply with testing guidelines as outlined by Cook County Dept of Public Health and to share with us only if student or other household member has a positive test or is a close contact as defined by IDPH)
- Does the Health Advisory Committee recommend using masks with filters?  
Yes, filters are fine except they should NOT be one-way filters. Those protect the wearer but not other people.
- A parent and Dr. Angarone stated that they have experience with SHIELD testing and that it is a very manageable process for schools even for young children.