



KEY FACTS ABOUT THE COVIDSHIELD TEST

IS COVIDSHIELD A DIAGNOSTIC TEST?

- Yes, **covidSHIELD** is classified by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) as an **in vitro diagnostic test** for use in a screening or surveillance testing capacity.
- The FDA's **Emergency Use Authorization (EUA)** for covidSHIELD states that it should be used for identification of SARS-CoV-2 RNA and that positive test results are indicative of SARS-CoV-2 infection.
- The covidSHIELD test targets specific COVID-19 markers and is not able to test for other communicable disease, substances, or DNA.
- Once testing is completed, Samples are permanently destroyed by being placed in biohazard containers, securely stored, and incinerated by hazardous materials personnel.
- The EUA authorizes covidSHIELD to be used for people who are displaying symptoms or people who are asymptomatic.
- In a recent clinical study, **covidSHIELD achieved a sensitivity of 96% and a specificity of 99%**, meaning it is a highly accurate test for the presence of SARS-CoV-2.

IS COVIDSHIELD A PCR TEST?

- Yes, **covidSHIELD is a PCR test**, the gold standard of tests for detecting SARS-CoV-2.
- covidSHIELD is a real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (**RT-PCR**) test, as are all PCR tests for SARS-CoV-2.

WHY TEST NOW THAT VACCINES ARE AVAILABLE?

- Herd immunity isn't likely to happen in 2021
- Even though vaccines are recommended, no vaccine is 100% effective
- Children under 12 aren't able to get vaccinated yet
- Vaccinated individuals can still be carriers of and spread the virus
- Health professionals recommend continuation of all mitigation practices even after vaccination
- The CDC recommends that anyone with signs or symptoms of COVID-19 get tested, regardless of vaccination status.

WHAT WILL COVIDSHIELD TESTING IN MY SCHOOL LOOK LIKE?

- Each school decides whether testing is optional or mandatory, and provides/collects consent forms as needed
- SHIELD and point-of-contact person will monitor/report testing results to students, teachers, staff, and parents/guardians
- Testing will be done once or twice per week and takes each student approximately 3-5 minutes to provide a sample
- Results are provided within 24 hours of samples reaching SHIELD labs

CAN COVIDSHIELD REDUCE STUDENTS' TIME IN QUARANTINE?

- Schools participating in the IDPH School Testing Program may use a modified definition of close contacts for classroom settings.
- Such schools may use a definition for classroom close contacts as those who come within 3 feet or less of a COVID-19 case for a cumulative time of 15 minutes or more within a 24-hour period.