

Frequently Asked Question Guide for School-Based COVID-19 Testing

- The purpose of the program is to offer an opportunity for students and staff to be tested on a regular basis as an extra layer of protection in keeping our school environment safe.
 - Below are a list of questions we have received so far. We will continue to add to this list of questions and provide the best responses to you.
 - It is very difficult to provide answers to comments, so if you would like more information, please structure your comments in the form of a question.
 - We are planning a campus wide meeting at both schools with Maverick Health for anyone who would like to attend to receive more information
 - Be on the lookout for an informational video from Maverick Health that explains in more detail how these tests will be performed.
1. Does this include Choir? Yes. Choir is an indoor activity where students are performing in close contact and not wearing mask. Student/athletes will periodically be required to show proof of a negative test if participating in sports and extracurricular. If we have a signed consent on file we can test them through Maverick Health; however, students can always see their regular doctor to be tested.
 2. What happens if a parent doesn't consent to testing? No one is being forced to participate in testing. This is a program offered by the Mississippi Department of Health that will allow for testing to be done on school campus if a parent chooses to. This is just an extra layer of protection being provided that will help keep our schools open.
 3. Does the consent require my child to be tested weekly? NO. The consent for just gives us the right to test your child if you would like for them to be tested. For example, if a parent signs the consent form, we will begin testing their child(ren) weekly. If the parent decides they do not want the child to be tested, then they can notify the school, or the child can refuse the test. At any point you want the child to be tested all you have to do is notify the school.
 4. Will this also include students who have been vaccinated? Yes, and No. Vaccinated students may be required to produce a negative test is directly exposed to COVID-19 or they become symptomatic. However, they will not have to be tested regularly if the parent chooses not to. If there are mandatory test required for a certain team for whatever reasons, then all students regardless of vaccination status must produce a negative test result. There have been several cases of vaccine breakthroughs where the vaccine protects the person vaccinated, but they can possibly spread the virus to others.
 5. What if my child is an athlete and I do not wish for them to participate in school-based testing, can they still participate in sports? Yes; however, they may be required to produce a negative test result periodically to continue to participate. This can be done through the school and Maverick Health or they can produce a negative test from their own healthcare providers.

6. Will students only be tested when they are close contacts? There are a separate set of guidelines for quarantining close contacts. However; recently the Mississippi Department of Health just released new guidelines that say a close contact can return to the school setting after 7 days if they are symptom free and receive a negative COVID test. This can be done through Maverick Health on the school campus if they have a signed consent or can be done by their own healthcare provider.
7. If a child plays sports and is vaccinated and the parent does not consent to testing will they be allowed to play? See question number 4 for a response.
8. Is this test a nasal swab? Yes. We will post a video from Maverick Health that shows exactly how the test is performed. Once you see the video you can make the decision as to whether or not you want your child to participate. We are told that it is a lot less invasive than other test that are offered.
9. Are the staff member required to be tested weekly? No. Neither are students. This is a free testing option for anyone who wants to be tested. As far as athletes there are more restrictions do to the increase in contracting COVID-19 and spreading it to others. Testing will be provided weekly but students will not have to be tested weekly if they choose not to.
10. Why is this directed only at athletes? This program is an opportunity for any staff and student who would like to be tested. It is not mandatory. As far as athletes, it is not mandatory for them to be tested weekly, however, in order to keep a safe environment with our sports, they may be required to produce a negative test periodically. This can be done on campus with a consent from Maverick Health or from a medical provider.
11. With this partnership with Maverick Health, is the district getting paid from this partnership? ABSOLUTELY NOT. We have been working with the MSDH since May trying to get in line for this testing program. We just got approved to offer testing as a means to keep the environment as safe as possible. It is our goal to keep schools open as long as we can manage the cases and keep students safe. This is another measure that will allow us to reach that goal.
12. How can this be used to shorten the quarantine period? The test with Maverick or any healthcare provider is not what has shortened the quarantine period. The MSDH just released new guidelines that says a child placed under quarantine because of exposure can return to the classroom setting after 7 days with a negative test and symptom free. This test can be conducted on campus with Maverick Health if students have a consent form on file or by your primary healthcare provider.
13. Why are athletes being punished when other students are not? This is not a punishment. Keep our students and environment is not a punishment. Athletes will only be tested weekly like any other students in the school if they choose to. However; athletes are subject to routine testing if required to do so because they are in close contact with others without wearing mask for long periods of time. This places them at more risk of contracting and transmitting. When a team is required to test, ALL athletes

will have to produce a negative COVID-19 test to participate. This can be done through Maverick Health or through your primary care provider.