

COVID TESTING

IN ALABAMA K12 SCHOOLS

Keeping Schools Safe for Teachers & Staff

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The University of Alabama Birmingham (UAB) School of Public Health is collaborating with the Alabama Department of Public Health and the Alabama State Department of Education to offer free, voluntary COVID-19 testing in Alabama K-12 schools.

This program is fully funded by \$147 million by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Federal Funds.

ABOUT THE TEST

- ✓ Gentle, front-of-the-nose swab test, NOT the "Brain Swab"
- ✓ Tests take less than 1 minute, with results in 24 hours
- ✓ Schools will follow district-approved COVID-19 plan in event of positive case



ABOUT THE PROCESS

Bloom Health is our K-12 school testing partner.

- Their approach relieves the burden many testing programs put on teachers and staff
- They own their own CLIA-compliant labs
- They have kept Fortune 500 companies, manufacturing plants, sporting events, theme parks and TV/film productions safe & operational throughout the pandemic

SAMPLE COLLECTED BY VENDOR



SAMPLE TAKEN TO VENDOR'S LAB



SAMPLE TESTED AT VENDOR LAB



RESULTS REPORTED PRIVATELY



UAB

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The University of Alabama at Birmingham

FREE, VOLUNTARY TESTING



Comfortable testing for all ages & abilities; teachers & staff tested separately



Avoids false results with accurate testing & triple check of positives



Privacy will be protected; names will not be shared with co-workers or students



Keeps students, family, friends & co-workers safe

SCAN CODE OR GO ONLINE TO JOIN

Faculty, staff & students are invited to enroll. You can join or leave at any time. Paper consent forms are also available.



Bloom
UNSTOPPABLE IS POSSIBLE.™

ALABAMA
PUBLIC
HEALTH



UAB
SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

Enroll at:
https://testing.bloomhealthpartners.com/uab_adult?s=26

Learn more at:
<https://sites.uab.edu/covidalk12>



WHY IS OUR SCHOOL TESTING FOR COVID-19?

Teachers, faculty, students and families have endured enough disruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This free, voluntary testing program is an effective way to help keep our schools safe. Many people with COVID-19 are asymptomatic, meaning they don't have symptoms, yet can still spread the virus. Regular testing helps detect infections before they can spread to others.

HOW DOES THIS FREE, VOLUNTARY TESTING PROGRAM WORK?

Where will the tests be given?



Each school's testing site will be in a designated location on the school grounds, dependent on school space and other factors.

Are the tests comfortable?



Yes. Testing is done with a very small front-of-the-nose swab rather than a "brain swab" and only takes seconds. Alternative testing options are available for those who require them.

Who will conduct the tests?



Trained on-site clinical staff will administer the tests. A state-of-the art CLIA-compliant Bloom lab will analyze the tests.



How often will testing be done?



Testing will be offered once per week at each school.

I am vaccinated. Do I still need to be tested?



If you are vaccinated, you do not need to be tested unless you have symptoms or have been exposed to COVID-19.*

Will my class schedule change?



The test is quick & easy. Every measure will be taken to minimize schedule disruptions.

*according to current CDC guidelines

HOW FAST, ACCURATE AND SECURE IS THE TESTING PROCESS?

What kind of tests are used?



Viral PCR nucleic acid amplification (NAAT) tests are analyzed with the high-tech ThermoFisher platform.

How accurate is the test?



The tests (called RT-PCR) are the most accurate tests available. Three proteins (instead of just 1 required by the CDC) are tested to minimize false positives. Positive results are triple-checked as well.

When will we get the results?



Test results will be available within 24 hours and sent through a secure, HIPAA-compliant online reporting system.

What if I test positive?



A school representative will contact you regarding next steps to ensure the safety of you and your class.

What if my students test positive?



A school representative will notify anyone who had a potential exposure to COVID-19, in accordance with your district-approved policy.

How secure is our information?



Test results will be shared with you and your school representative in a way that protects your privacy.