

# COVID-19 SCHOOL TESTING PROGRAM

## Neodesha Schools USD#461



### Dear Teachers and Staff,

We know that last year was tough, but we're excited to get back this fall. We are committed to taking the steps necessary to help us have a safe return to school. As part of steps to help stop the spread of COVID-19 and keep our school open for in-person learning, we will offer a **free COVID-19 Testing Program for students and staff at the Neodesha Schools**. Regular testing will help protect you, our students, family members, and others who are not vaccinated against COVID-19 or are otherwise at risk for getting seriously sick from COVID-19.

Through this program, we will be able to identify COVID-19 cases quickly and early, which can help us stop an outbreak before it happens. This will help us keep students in the classroom and able to take part in the school activities they love.

We are working with our state and local health department and are joining other school districts throughout the state that offer this program.

- **Who will be tested?** We will offer testing to everyone—all students and staff—even if they don't have symptoms of COVID-19.
  - Testing is also available for students and staff who have symptoms of COVID-19, even if vaccinated, or who have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19.
- **How is the testing done?** The COVID-19 testing is free, quick, and easy. Members of our school staff will oversee testing with either a NAAT/PCR or antigen test, which includes:
  - [For nasal swabs] Gently swabbing the inner part of the lower nostril. This test is not painful. We do not use the longer swabs that reach higher into the nose.
- **Where and when is the testing done?** Our school's testing site will be Neodesha auditorium lobby and will take place regularly. Results will be available within 30 min.
- **How can I be sure that my information will be protected?** Sharing of information will only be done for public health purposes and in accordance with applicable law and policies protecting your privacy and the security of your data.

# COVID-19 SCHOOL TESTING PROGRAM

**This letter asks you to consent to:**

- **take part in regular, free testing as part of Neodesha School District COVID-19 Testing Program, and**
- **get tested if you show symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or have been in close contact with a person with COVID-19 while at work.**

We are extremely grateful to you and all our committed staff and families who continue to show great flexibility and resilience as we work together to contain the spread of this virus. If you have questions regarding the COVID-19 Testing Program, please reach out to your school nurse or your school administrator.

Sincerely,



Juanita Erickson  
Superintendent USD 461 Neodesha  
620-325-2610

*CDC recommends everyone 12 years and older get a COVID-19 vaccine to help protect against COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective, and free. Getting vaccinated prevents severe illness, hospitalizations, and death. Visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines) to find vaccination providers near you.*

# COVID-19 SCHOOL TESTING PROGRAM

## Neodesha Schools USD#461



### Dear Parents, Caregivers, and Guardians,

We know that last year was tough, but we're excited to be back this fall. We are committed to taking the steps necessary to help us have a safe return to school. As part of steps to help stop the spread of COVID-19 and keep our school open for in-person learning, we will offer a **free COVID-19 Testing Program for students and staff at the Neodesha Schools**. Regular testing will help protect our students, staff, family members, and others who are not vaccinated against COVID-19 or are otherwise at risk for getting seriously sick from COVID-19.

Through this program, we will be able to identify COVID-19 cases quickly and early, which can help us stop an outbreak before it happens. This will help us keep students in the classroom and able to take part in the school activities they love.

We are working with our state and local health departments and are joining other school districts throughout the state that offer this program.

- **Who will be tested?** We will offer testing to everyone—all students and staff—even if they don't have symptoms of COVID-19.
  - Testing is also available for students and staff who have symptoms of COVID-19, even if vaccinated, or who have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19.
- **How is the testing done?** The COVID-19 testing is free, quick, and easy. Members of our school staff will oversee testing with either a NAAT/PCR or antigen test, which includes:
  - Gently swabbing the inner part of the lower nostril. This test is not painful. We do not use the longer swabs that reach higher into the nose.
- **Where and when is the testing done?** Our school's testing site will be mainly the Neodesha High School auditorium lobby and will take place regularly. Results will be available within 30 min.

# COVID-19 SCHOOL TESTING PROGRAM

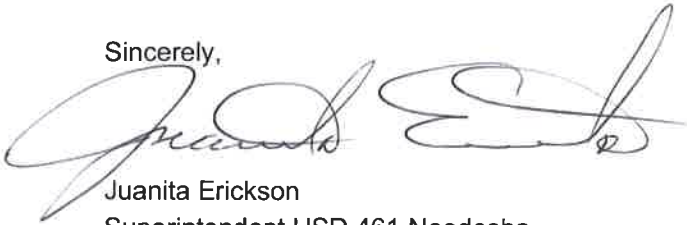
- **How can I be sure that my child's information will be protected?** Sharing of information about your child will only be done for public health purposes and in accordance with applicable law and policies protecting student privacy and the security of your child's data.

**This letter asks your permission for us to:**

- **regularly test your child as part of a free COVID-19 testing program at school, and**
- **test your child if they show symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or have been in close contact with a person with COVID-19 while in school.**

We are extremely grateful to our committed families and staff who continue to show great flexibility and resilience as we work together to contain the spread of this virus. If you have questions regarding the COVID-19 Testing Program, please reach out to your school nurse or your school administrator.

Sincerely,



Juanita Erickson  
Superintendent USD 461 Neodesha  
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# OPTIONAL ANTIGEN TESTING

September 28, 2021

Over the next two weeks, we will begin our ***optional antigen testing*** at Neodesha Public Schools. It is very important that you know that ***testing is an option and will only be done with parental consent.***

In cooperation with both the Wilson County Health Department and with the availability of antigen testing, we will move to this criteria **effective October 1, 2021.**

Moving forward, if your student is determined to be a close contact within the schools, we will follow this procedure:

1. On the day the student is determined to have been a close contact, parents will receive a call from our school nurse with further instructions.
2. **Parents will be asked to choose one of the following options.** Please review these options carefully, as you will not be allowed to change options during the quarantine period.
  - **OPTION 1: Quarantine at home for at least 10 days.** Do no testing and return on day 11, if symptom free.
    - *If option 1 is chosen, your student will be sent home from school on the day determined they were a close contact.*
  - **OPTION 2: Quarantine at home for at least 7 days.** Obtain a PCR test from a doctor's office, pharmacy, or health department on day 6 and return on day 8, if symptom free and test is negative.
    - *If option 2 is chosen, your student will be sent home from school on the day determined they were a close contact.*
  - **OPTION 3: No quarantine at home with daily negative test results. If symptom free,** request the antigen testing and agree that, **if the test is negative,** the student will attend school, and **will wear a mask at school for the next 10 calendar days.** Returning to normal on day 11.
    - Parents may opt to shorten the antigen testing period by obtaining the student a **PCR test on day 6.** If the PCR test is negative, the student may return to normal on day 8. The students must still obtain an antigen test on day 6 and day 7 to stay at school.
    - *If this option is chosen, the **parent MUST complete the consent form found in PowerSchool Forms.** Details on how to do this will be provided to parents as needed.*
3. Appointments are required for testing and can be made by calling 620-325-3015. Testing will be done in the auditorium lobby area of Neodesha High School and appointments will be available: Monday-Friday.

## **ANTIGEN TESTING Q & A**

**What is an Antigen Test?** This test detects an active infection with SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes the illness COVID-19. This test looks for antigens, which are protein markers found on the outside of a SARS-CoV-2 virus. The test is performed on a sample that is taken by swabbing the inside of both nostrils. The test is not painful and the swab does not extend to the back of the nostril.

**How often does a quarantined individual test?** Daily while school is in session

**What if I want my child to have the antigen test, but I do not want him/her to wear a mask for the next 7-10 days?** After October 1, 2021, if the choice is made to have the antigen testing, then the student must agree to wear a mask for 7-10 days. Otherwise, option 1 or 2 from the above list should be chosen.

**What if my child has a medical exemption?** As a close contact in quarantine using the antigen test to stay in school, only students who wear a mask for the 7-10 days are eligible. In the case of a medical exemption, option 1 or 2 should be chosen.

**Who will be doing the testing?** Our school nurse will be overseeing all testing. Trained individuals on our staff will be coordinating the testing. The actual nose swab will be administered by trained individuals.

**Where will the testing occur?** Neodesha High School Auditorium Lobby or designated areas at Heller Elementary and Northlawn Elementary.

**How long do results take?** The antigen test results are available within 15-30 minutes.

**How will I be notified of the results?** You will be sent an email or text or other prearranged contact agreed upon.

**Is a parent required to be at the testing appointment?** For appointments, any non-driving student must have one parent accompany them for the duration of the test.

**What if my student's exposure is identified during the school day?** You will be called by our school nurse as soon as possible. If option 3 is chosen, we will test your student immediately and, if negative, they will be allowed to stay at school and required to wear a mask. Students will NOT be tested without prior parental authorization.

# Neodesha Schools USD#461



## Consent to COVID-19 Test

Please carefully read and provide written acknowledgment of the following informed consent:

- a. I authorize a COVID-19 testing administrator associated with the school district, local health department or state health department to conduct collection and testing for COVID-19 through a saliva sample, nasal or nasopharyngeal swab collection as ordered by an authorized medical provider or public health official.
- b. I authorize my test result, or the test result of my child if my child is under the age of 18 years, to be disclosed to the county, state, or to any other governmental entity as may be required by law.
- c. I understand that, as with any medical test, there is the potential for a false positive or false negative COVID-19 test result.
- d. I give permission for the [INSERT NAME OF LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT] and my school district to contact me using non-secure methods (e-mail) regarding this COVID-19 test result, and I understand the risks involved.

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Signature of client or parent (if client is under age 18)

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Date

# COVID-19 PROTOCOL

*After a positive case of COVID-19 is identified at Neodesha Public Schools, the following steps will take place.*

- Isolate individual(s), if present
- Consult with Local Health Officers
- Clean and treat any affected areas
- Contact trace within Neodesha Public Schools to determine close contacts
- Immediately notify anyone determined to have had close contact
- Notify anyone who may have been in proximity
- Advise of any required self-quarantine
- Follow any additional recommendations from Wilson County Health Dept.

**High-Risk Close Contact** is a contact where masks were not worn **by both parties** (unless it is an N-95 mask) and the person was closer than 6 ft. for more than 10 minutes to a person infected with the virus. This may have occurred during lunch or during a time where masks are not worn due to physical exertion.

**Low-Risk Close Contact** is a contact where all mitigation measures have been adhered to, including **both parties** wearing masks, washing of hands, and remaining socially distanced to the greatest extent possible.

**Exposure** Fewer than 6 feet away for more than 10 minutes to an individual who have tested positive or has been exposed to a known positive case and is exhibiting COVID-like symptoms, during their infectious period (two days prior to their test or first symptoms, until no longer showing symptoms or ten days after their positive test).

**Non-Close Contact** Outside of 6 feet for a brief period of time. A non-close contact would have no known exposure.

**Exceptions to Quarantining** Vaccinated persons with an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 are not required to quarantine if they have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure and meet the following criteria:

- Are fully vaccinated with documentation (fully vaccinated is 2 weeks after 2nd vaccine)
- OR**



- Has a previously documented positive PCR COVID-19 test within the last 6 months (antibody test results are not recognized by our county or state)

There is currently no time limit on how long fully vaccinated persons are considered immune. These close contacts may not be considered susceptible close contacts. Persons who do not meet both of the above criteria should continue to follow current quarantine guidance after exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

It is recommended by the CDC that fully vaccinated individuals get tested 3 to 5 days after exposure even if they do not have symptoms with an additional recommendation by KDHE to re-test 7-10 days after exposure. However, they do not have to isolate at home while waiting for results if they do not have symptoms.