

September 3, 2021

Dear District #7 Families:

To achieve our goal of keeping students in the classroom, Edwardsville Community Unit School District #7 has partnered with the University of Illinois to assist with our efforts to monitor and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our schools and community through the SHIELD Test. This FDA authorized and non-invasive testing for COVID-19 will be performed on a voluntary basis at each of our buildings and is free to all students at every grade level. The SHIELD Test requires only a small amount of saliva from an individual and provides results within 24 hours.

Consent for testing is completely voluntary and will not be administered unless you indicate that you wish your child to participate by filling out and returning the authorization form to your school nurse.

As you make the decision for your child(ren), please note the following details:

- Students will be tested one time per week.
- Individuals should not eat or drink within 60 minutes of providing a saliva sample.
- Once SHIELD samples are collected, they are sent off-site to a lab to be processed. The results of the test will be made available to our school nurses. Parents can also set up a portal to view their child(ren)s results.
- These tests are provided at NO COST to the family or the school district, but are made possible through a partnership with the University of Illinois and Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH).
- Everyone is encouraged to participate. SHIELD testing is recommended for all unvaccinated staff and students, but even vaccinated individuals may need to be tested during the school year due to exposure as a close contact or COVID19 symptoms.

District #7 will begin the SHIELD Test program on Monday, September 27, 2021. While you may opt-in (or out) at any time, if you wish to begin testing of your child(ren) as early as September 27, 2021, please have your consent form signed and turned in no later than Tuesday, September 14, 2021 to your school nurse. Families opting in after this date may experience a delay in testing availability of up to seven days.

Our third party vendor, Med-Call, is also seeking committed candidates to assist with the collection of COVID- 19 test kits from the faculty, student body, and community. Collectors may be expected to drive to 3 to 4 school sites per day (via their own transportation) to collect completed COVID-19 tests. Persons interested in this part-time or full-time position which pays \$15-\$20 hour, should contact Kathleen Loomis 708-971-3656.

Families should also remember that our testing plan is fluid and may change as we work closely with the local health department and as the data is evaluated. School nurses will work with families on a case-by-case basis to determine the steps to ensure students are able to return to school as soon as possible.

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 and to keep our kids safe and in school.

With Tiger Pride,



Patrick Shelton, Ed.D.
Superintendent