What is the State COVID-19 Testing Program in Schools?
MCS is one of approximately 100 other public school district across the state who have elected to provide state-funded Free COVID-19 diagnostic testing to students and employees on school campuses. Diagnostic testing means testing performed because an individual is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 or is otherwise believed to possibly be infected with COVID-19.

Will testing be available on all MCS campuses?
A limited number of additional school nurses will be hired for the primary purpose of providing COVID testing in schools. Unfortunately, there are not enough additional nurses to have a testing nurse on every campus every day. If a testing nurse is not on a campus and a symptomatic child needs to be tested the parent will be informed of options for designated daily “drive-thru” testing sites located on select campuses within your area.

When will testing at school sites start?
The district is currently working to finalize staffing and preparations for testing to begin. The goal is to hopefully begin to offer testing the week of November 15.

Does it cost anything to have my child tested at school?
COVID-19 testing as a part of this program is free for MCS students and employees.

Can family members who are non-MCS students or employees be tested at school sites as a part of this program?
No, the testing program is only available for MCS students and employees.

Can a student be tested for COVID-19 at school without the consent of a parent?
No, COVID testing at school is a choice. Documented registration and parental consent is required for a student to receive a COVID-19 test at school as a part of
the state testing program. No student will be tested without documented parental consent.

**How do I register and provide consent for my child to be tested?**
Information on the process for online registration and consent was sent home to parents with all students on October 15. Parents can also visit MCS website for a link specific to your child’s school that should be used to register your child and provide consent. Additional information and directions on registering your child for testing can be found [here](#).

**If a parent provides documented consent and their child develops symptoms while at school will the child automatically be tested without the school contacting the parent?**
No, parents will be notified if their child is symptomatic at school and asked if they want their child tested before a test is administered, even if they have already submitted the registration/consent form.

**If my child becomes symptomatic at school can they be tested that day before being sent home?**
If a COVID testing nurse is assigned to a child’s school on the day he/she becomes symptomatic at school, and the parent has completed the online registration and provided parental consent, the child can be tested that day before being picked up and taken home by the parent. Due to a limited number of COVID testing nurses a testing nurse will not be assigned to every school every day. In an instance where a student becomes symptomatic at school when a COVID testing nurse is not at the school information will be shared with the parent related to designated daily “drive-thru” testing sites located on select MCS campuses in their area which they may visit to have their child tested.

**If my child becomes symptomatic at home how can I get them tested at the school?**
If a child becomes symptomatic while at home parents may bring their child to one of the designated daily “drive-thru” testing sites located on select campuses. Information related to “drive-thru” testing sites can be obtained by calling your school office. A symptomatic child should NEVER be sent to school on the bus, dropped off at school, or brought into the school.

**Who will be performing the COVID tests?**
Funding for the testing program allows for hiring additional school nurses for the primary purpose of COVID testing in schools. Nurses are specifically trained in how to administer COVID testing.

**What type of COVID test will be administered?**
Through this testing program only PCR testing will be administered as it is the most reliable form of COVID testing. Rapid Antigen testing will not be utilized. Testing will be performed with an anterior nasal swab. This is NOT the deep “brain tickler” swab. The swab will be placed no more than three-quarters of an inch into an individual’s nostril.

**How long will it take to receive test results?**
Although it is possible for times to vary based on the volume of tests, in general, tests results can be expected within approximately 24-48 hours.

**Who will receive test results?**
The parent/legal guardian, the student being tested, the school/testing nurse and the local health department will receive test results.

**How will I be notified of the test results?**
You will receive an email or text (depending on the method of communication you indicated on the registration form) notifying you of the results.

**If my child is positive, will I be called by a contact tracer?**
A state or local health department representative may contact you regarding any close contacts. [HERE](#) is more information on contact tracing,

**What do I do while waiting for test results? What do I do if the test is positive?**
The NCDHHS addresses both of these questions [HERE](#) in English and [HERE](#) in Spanish.

**What do I do if my child's symptoms get worse before I have the results of the test back?**
If you have any worsening of symptoms, please contact your Health Care Provider or local Urgent Care immediately. If your child is having any issues with breathing, persistent coughing, or skin color changes, you should seek medical attention immediately or call 911.

**What if I need resources, such as shelter or food?**
Contact the social worker at your child's school.