

Frequently Asked Questions

Is the SHIELD testing optional or required for unvaccinated students?

Parents of students will have to sign an OPT IN form to participate in the SHIELD testing. However, should a student in the testing pool not participate in the SHIELD Testing program, or not provide documentation of external testing, the student would still access in-person instruction, but would be subject to increased physical distancing requirements and would not be eligible to participate in extracurricular programs or other events where testing is required.

How will the confidentiality of the student's private health information be protected if they are being pulled from class for testing? Wouldn't everyone then know whether the student was vaccinated?

We will work with SHIELD on this to make sure confidentiality is protected. We have a few ideas on how this will work, but nothing has been set in stone yet.

What protections will be added to ensure a student's vaccination status is not known by staff or students if the testing pool is only for undocumented or unvaccinated individuals?

Vaccination status will be held in the same confidence as all other health information that is submitted to the lab schools. The information will be housed with the nurse in the database she keeps.

If the option is chosen to overall opt out of testing what will be the exact differences in the treatment of these students?

Nobody will be SHIELD tested unless they opt in. We have a draft of the form that parents will be asked to complete for each of their students. If students are not vaccinated and do not participate in SHIELD testing, as stated in the document sent, there will be no difference in academics, but extracurricular activities will not be available to them. If a student does not participate in SHIELD testing and is not vaccinated, AND they are in close contact with someone who has tested COVID positive, they will have to quarantine for 10-14 days.

How will the school ensure students who choose not to be in the testing pool but also choose not to provide vaccination proof are not treated differently by staff or other students?

There will be limited faculty/staff who need to know the status of students, their vaccination status, and their choice of participating in SHIELD testing or not. We can't control what a student says to other students or faculty/staff, but it is not something that will be made public by the lab schools. We will be watching for different treatment because of family choices and exacerbate as much as we can.

If a student opts out of testing how will the vaccination status (health information) be protected if they are being treated differently?

This will be the same as it has always been. Health information is confidential, and it is only shared on a need to know basis.

Will there be an option to opt in and out on a weekly basis? For example, there is an athletic event that requires testing one week, would the student be able to opt in for testing that week so they could participate but opt out on weeks where extracurricular activities with testing is not occurring?

This has not been considered at this point. Once a meeting with SHIELD is scheduled, we will know more about our options. This could be a scheduling nightmare in some ways, but the question will be asked.

With infections being able to be transmitted via vaccinated students, why are not all students being tested and is that an option?

We've had this question a few times and it is a good one. SHIELD does not recommend the testing of vaccinated students because it often leads to a false positive or a false negative. We will test vaccinated students if they have symptoms, but they will likely need to be tested using the nose swab with their health care professional.