



FAQ | FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

SANTA ANA UNIFIED HEALTHY LEARNING COVID-19 TESTING PROGRAM
2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR



Santa Ana Unified will update our COVID-19 site as more information becomes available. The following are frequently asked questions for families and employees about COVID-19 testing and the SAUSD Healthy Learning COVID-19 Testing Program.

Why is Santa Ana Unified conducting its own COVID-19 testing?

The Santa Ana Unified School District is committed to providing high-quality, in-person education in the 2021-22 school year in a manner that safeguards the health of students, teachers, and staff. To ensure the safest environment possible, SAUSD is working with its health partner, DLS, who are experts in their respective fields to conduct weekly COVID-19 testing for all students and employees, regardless of vaccination status.

How often will the students and staff who work on campus be tested for COVID?

Weekly testing will be conducted for all students and staff. Testing will be conducted during the school day by a mobile team; parents do not have to schedule those tests.

Why are employees and students being asked to take a test?

All employees and students, regardless of vaccination status, are required to take a test. Testing will help determine the prevalence of the virus in the school community and help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

What if a student does not want to participate in the testing program?

Students who do not wish to participate in the district's COVID-19 testing program will not be permitted to return to school in-person and may enroll in the District's online independent study program.

Will all students be tested?

Weekly testing will be required for all students and staff, regardless of vaccination status.

How much does testing cost?

There is no charge to Santa Ana Unified students or employees for COVID-19 testing.

Why do you need my health insurance information?

Patients without insurance are eligible for COVID-19 testing at no cost to them because providers of COVID-19 testing services can secure reimbursement for such testing through the federal government. Federal rules require all health insurance companies to pay for the full expense of COVID-19 tests, and insurance companies may not charge a co-payment or deductibles.

Similarly, Medi-Cal must pay for the full expense of COVID-19 tests and may not charge a co-payment. In the event that a person does not have health insurance or a person does not have Medi-Cal, then the federal government will pay for the full expense of COVID-19 tests and will

not charge a co-payment. Your health insurance information is necessary to ensure your health insurance company, Medi-Cal, or the federal government will pay for the test, regardless of immigration status.

You will not be charged a co-payment or any other fee – the federal government has made it clear that you will not be charged, regardless of immigration status. SAUSD and our testing partner will not charge you.

Will Early Childhood Education and Adult School students and staff be part of the testing program?

Yes, all Santa Ana Unified students and staff are included in the program, regardless of age or grade level.

What will happen if my child is absent on the day testing is scheduled?

If a child is absent, there will be make-up testing available on campus.

Do children participating in the District’s pre-school programs need to get tested?

Yes. There is no age limit as to who can be tested.

Is Santa Ana Unified working with the Orange County Health Care Agency?

Regulations require all positive cases to be reported to the Orange County Health Care Agency, which in turn is involved in the formal contact-tracing process for Santa Ana Unified students or employees who test positive for the virus.

Will my test results be shared with any other entities and/or agencies?

Any information shared with outside parties will be in full compliance with Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) privacy laws and only with the consent from any participant in the testing program.

Why do vaccinated staff and students have to participate in periodic testing?

All in-person students and staff will have to participate in weekly COVID-19 testing, regardless of vaccination status. Testing is an additional layer of protection for all students and staff.

Can my supervisor ask to see my test results?

No. A test result is personal health information and is protected by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and an individual does not have to disclose test results.

Can a relative or friend of a student get tested for COVID-19?

To ensure a Healthy Learning environment at SAUSD, the district is prioritizing student and employee testing. Please note that we are prioritizing student and employee testing as the program is implemented district wide.

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN SCHEDULING AND TAKING A SAUSD COVID-19 TEST

What is the testing process for employees and students?

The testing process is simple. There's a quick check-in upon arrival at the testing site and a trained clinician will be there to help oversee the process.

The test is free and you will receive the test result within 24-36 hours via text and email.

All results are kept confidential and stored in a separate, secure database. Information will be shared only with the appropriate scientists, school administrators, and health authorities.

Will I be able to choose the kind of COVID-19 test I receive?

While we recommend the use of oral swabs, anyone can request a nasal swab at all test sites if they prefer. Both tests are what's known as PCR tests, the gold standard for COVID-19 testing.

Who is conducting the testing?

Santa Ana Unified has contracted with Diagnostic Laboratory Science (DLS) to provide test kits and lab services. Accurate Health Partners (AHP) will provide trained staff and mobile testing teams to conduct testing at school sites and SAUSD facilities.

How much does testing cost?

There is no charge to Santa Ana Unified students or employees for COVID-19 testing.

What safety precautions are being taken during the testing process?

Santa Ana Unified will follow precautions prescribed by public health agencies. All testing staff will perform hand hygiene before testing each person and wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

All PPE and other testing-related materials will be properly disposed of once each test is completed, followed by additional hand hygiene.

Hand sanitizer is available to everyone who participates in testing, and the testing team has access to a handwashing facility with soap and water.

The District conducts regular safety audits of testing sites to ensure proper procedures and protocols are being followed.

Is consent required for the COVID-19 test?

Students and staff must provide consent before testing can be conducted. Students who are at least 18 can provide their own consent. A parent/guardian must provide consent for students younger than 18. An online consent form will be provided.

Consents can be modified at <https://accuratelabtesting.com/>.

As a Santa Ana Unified employee, can I return to work after taking a test?

Staff should return to their assigned work sites while they await test results. SAUSD employees must participate in weekly COVID-19 testing, regardless of vaccination status.

How long does it take to receive test results?

Test results should be available in 24-36 hours after the test is taken.

Do I need to submit a hard copy of the consent and authorization forms?

No, your electronic signature is recorded when you select 'Yes' or 'No' in the Consent? and Authorized? fields.