

I want to apologize for the confusion that my previous email has caused. So I will try to clarify some of the questions that I have been getting.

SHIELD testing is not required for any student. We are working to gather information to create a roster of those students who will be participating in the testing.

The SHIELD testing is for those students and staff that are unvaccinated. If a student is vaccinated then we would need to have proof of vaccination on file in the office. The IDPH recommends that all unvaccinated students and staff be tested weekly. This makes the SHIELD testing most effective, however a student can be included in the test to stay option, if considered a close contact, even if they are not participating in the weekly testing. For a student to be included in either the weekly testing **AND/OR** the test to stay option, we must have consent for them to participate.

If a student opts out of the testing program they will still be at school for in-person instruction each day. If an unvaccinated student is considered a close contact and they are not participating in the test to stay option they will be required to quarantine according to current IDPH guidance. This is done in conjunction with the Cass County Health Department.

The test to stay option is not available for a student who is considered a close contact for a member of their household due to continued exposure for that student.

If a student is vaccinated they can remain at school as long as they do not show any symptoms, or they could participate in the test to stay option as well.

SHIELD testing is a saliva based test done on a weekly basis. Results from this test are received within 24 hours of arriving at the lab.

The test to stay will be done with the Binax test which is a nasal swab done just inside the nostril and does not go into the sinus cavity. Binax is the rapid test, which yields results in 15 minutes.

If any student or staff tests positive for COVID 19 they will be required to follow quarantine guidelines through the Cass County Health Department. Currently that is 10 days from the date of the positive test and they are without symptoms and fever free for 24 hours. They may return on day 11.

If you have any further questions, please contact me for clarification.

I have attached an updated form for parents to use to OPT OUT, which includes an option to participate in the test to stay only. As a reminder, we must have the original signature as stated on the form.

We will need the original copy of the form returned to the office no later than Monday, October 4, 2021 so we can continue our planning.

Superintendent Gary DePatis

**OPT-OUT**

**TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENT/GUARDIAN**

<b>Parent/Guardian Information</b> All sections required – please print clearly	
Parent/Guardian Print Name:	
Parent/Guardian Home Address:	
Parent/Guardian Tel./Mobile #:	
Parent/Guardian Email Address:	
Best way to contact you:	
<b>Child/Student Information</b> All sections required – please print clearly	
Child/Student Print Name:	
Child/Student Date of Birth:	
Child/Student School:	
Child/Student Home Address:	

By signing below, I attest that:

- I have signed this form freely and voluntarily, and I am legally authorized to make decisions for the child named above.
- I DO NOT consent for my child to be tested for COVID-19 infection.
- I understand that if I revoke my consent and my child is considered a close contact to a positive case of COVID, my child will be required to quarantine, following local health department guidance.
- I understand that if I am a student age 18 or older, or may otherwise legally consent to my own health care, reference to “my child” refer to me and I may sign this form on my own behalf.

       I give consent for my child to participate in the “test-to-stay” option (ONLY) if they are considered a close contact to a positive case of COVID 19

ONLY ORIGINAL SIGNATURES ACCEPTED – NO COPIES OR SCANS

Signature of Parent/Guardian (if child is under age 18):		Date:
Signature of Student (if age 18 or over)		Date: