



SARALAND Board of Education

4010 Lil' Spartan Drive Saraland, Alabama 36571 Phone (251) 375-5420

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SUPERINTENDENT – Aaron Milner, Ed.D.

December 5, 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As a part of our commitment to maintain safe and healthy learning environments, Saraland City Schools has partnered with the UAB School of Public Health, the Alabama Department of Public Health, and the Alabama State Department of Education to offer *free and voluntary* asymptomatic COVID testing in Alabama's K-12 schools to students, faculty, and staff. This service is part of the COVID Testing and Prevention in Alabama's K-12 Schools program, operated out of the UAB School of Public Health.

Participation in testing is optional. However, as many of you know, getting a COVID-19 test in the community can sometimes be difficult. By making weekly testing for COVID-19 easy and accessible in our schools, we hope to stay ahead of any outbreaks and keep the virus from spreading. Early diagnosis is an important tool in maintaining the health of our students and staff.

The testing vendor for the COVID Testing and Prevention in Alabama's K-12 Schools program is Luxor Scientific. Luxor will be on-site conducting nasal swab COVID-19 tests. These are not the "brain" swabs you may have received at another testing site, rather one that just creates a small tickle in the nose. For additional information regarding the testing process and other important details, visit the program's website: sites.uab.edu/covidalk12/.

Consent by parent or legal guardian is required for students to participate in COVID-19 testing. If interested in participating, paper enrollment instructions will be distributed today for students to bring home. For your child to receive the \$15 weekly incentive card, complete the back of the paper form to opt in the rewards program. Student Rewards Cards are mailed 4-8 weeks after each month of testing throughout the school year. To sign up online, review and complete the consent form located at sites.uab.edu/covidalk12/consent-forms/.

Initial testing on campus is scheduled for Thursday, December 8, 2022. In January, testing will be scheduled on Tuesdays or Wednesdays.

When you enroll in this program, you will receive a QR code; however, students will not need to present the code when they are tested because the school will also have the QR code. You will receive the test results the next day by your choice of text and/or email. School nurses are the only individuals who receive test results at our school. If we have a positive case, we will contact the parents of the student(s) who tested positive.

By providing this free testing service, I hope that we can give our school community peace of mind about their child's health and safety here at school. Parents who sign their children up for our program can opt out at any time. An option to opt in later is also available, if desired. If you have any questions, please call me at 251-586-1495.

Sincerely,

Diana Collins MSN, RN
Health Services Supervisor