

City of St. Charles School District
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SCSD Families,

The federal government and the State of Missouri have prioritized public and private schools to receive Abbott's BinaxNOW rapid antigen test kits to test symptomatic school personnel and students for COVID-19. Recently, SCSD has applied for and received these tests. This minimally invasive nasal swab test can be administered in our school clinics, by our district nurses, and yields very accurate results in just 15 minutes when given within the first seven days of symptom onset (false positive rate= 1.5% and false negative rate= 2.9%). A fact sheet with information about the test itself can be found [here](#). We plan to start utilizing these tests as early as next week.

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (MoDESE) believes that these rapid antigen tests, in conjunction with other mitigation strategies, could be instrumental in helping schools continue safe, in-person learning. SCSD continues to work hard to keep our community as safe and healthy as possible and we feel this is an opportunity to utilize all of our available resources to do so, especially as we're currently seeing a rise in positive cases.

While it is still the expectation that students don't attend school if they're experiencing any symptoms of being sick, the antigen test will be available if/when students have symptoms that start while at school. To utilize the antigen test in our clinics (administered by the school nurse if/when your child meets the clinical requirements for administration and the nurse is available to give it), parents must provide consent. You can give consent by printing off, completing, and submitting the [consent form](#) to your school nurse ahead of time, or by completing the form if/when your child is in the clinic with symptoms. Please know that you will be contacted prior to the test being administered even if you have given consent ahead of time.

Also, remember to finalize your choice of learning for the second semester **by 4 pm today** by completing an e-form in the [SISK12 parent portal](#). Your child's "second semester" learning format will go into effect January 5th for grades K-6 and January 18th for grades 7-12.

Please **stay home** (if you're feeling ill or have any symptoms), **socially distance** (stay 6 ft.) as much as you can, **wear masks** at all times, **wash your hands** and practice strong hygiene protocols, **stay engaged** in the learning process, and **stay positive** even when we have positive cases and have to quarantine. Let's stay united together as we move forward.

United Together,
Dr. Jason Sefrit
Superintendent of Schools