



# Refugio Independent School District

Office of the District Nurse

212 W. Vance St.  
Refugio, TX 78377  
361-526-4844

## Dear Refugio ISD Parents,

At Refugio ISD, we are committed to doing all we can to keep staff and students healthy and safe. With this goal in mind, we are pleased to share that we will be taking part in a statewide program offering rapid tests for use in schools. This program will allow Refugio ISD to test both symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals—including staff and students-- and reduce the risk to our school community. This email offers further information on the tests and the testing program. If you have additional questions, you can email Emilee Cox, RN, District Nurse [emilee.cox@refugioisd.net](mailto:emilee.cox@refugioisd.net) or call 361-526-5400 ext. 5005 or 4005.

## What COVID-19 tests are used in this program?

This program uses [BinaxNOW tests](#), which provide results in 15 minutes and are administered using a nasal swab in the front area of the nostril. These tests have been shown to be highly accurate, with accuracy rates of 97-98% for symptomatic individuals.

## Who will be tested and when?

This program will allow employees and students (with permission from parents) to be tested free of charge with the BinaxNOW COVID-19 Rapid Ag test provided by the Texas Department of Emergency Management. Refugio ISD hopes to identify cases earlier, mitigate the spread of COVID, and prevent unnecessary absences due to testing delays.

This program allows for testing for students and staff of Refugio ISD only per the Texas Department of Emergency Management. These tests cannot be used outside of these two populations. Refugio ISD will focus on testing of symptomatic students and staff at this time, as well as those who have been found to be in close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Refugio ISD will also offer to test students or staff members who have developed symptoms off-campus. If a student or staff member were to develop symptoms prior to coming to campus, families could contact Nurse Cox to schedule a drive-up test if adequate testing supplies are available.

## How will the information from the tests be used?

If a parent has given permission for Refugio ISD to administer the BinaxNOW test for their child, your child's school will call you to let you know that your student is experiencing symptoms and that they will be administering a BinaxNOW test. The test administrator will also call to share the results after the test has been administered. Additionally, the student's parent or guardian will receive test results via text within 1 hour and will also receive a confirmation email within 24 hours.

The results will also be shared with the needed district members and with the local health department to allow for public health reporting and contact tracing and to determine the stay-at-home period for individuals who test positive. Additionally, the total number of positive tests per school will also be shared with the Texas Department of State Health Services as is required by law.

## What happens next?

Tests are available to all students or staff members who are showing symptoms of COVID-19 or that have been in close contact with a positive case. To participate, parents must complete this form. The first date testing will be available is January 25, 2021.

If your child is experiencing symptoms and you would like for him/ her to be tested, please do NOT send him/her to campus. Instead please call 361-526-5400 ext. 5004 or 4005 to schedule a time for drive thru testing between the time of 9am- 11am on Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday. The location for the drive thru testing will be the parking lot by the administration building.

Thank you,

Emilee Cox, RN Refugio ISD District Nurse