

IMPORTANT CHANGE IN ASYMPTOMATIC COVID-19 TESTING COVERAGE

March 12, 2021

Dear Orinda USD Staff, Students, and Parents,

As the demand and policies for COVID-19 testing continue to evolve, we have recently been informed that multiple insurance companies have formally stated ***they will not continue reimbursing asymptomatic surveillance student and parent/guardian COVID-19 testing. This will result in parents/guardians being billed for asymptomatic COVID-19 testing by insurance companies.*** The billing may be as high as \$150/test. The insurance companies we are currently aware of that have begun instituting these practices include:

- Anthem
- Cigna
- Blue Cross/Blue Shield

Parents/guardians should check with their insurance company to ascertain the level of coverage provided for asymptomatic testing. Fortunately, teachers and other school staff will continue to be covered by insurance companies under the essential worker policy of California.

If there is a positive exposure in the student's environment, or outbreak, these will be treated differently and likely be reimbursed by the insurance companies. Testing a potentially exposed individual for COVID-19 is viewed differently than weekly asymptomatic testing; it is also a different diagnosis code as determined by the ordering provider.

Next Steps

We will continue investigating how we can support our students and parents/guardians in obtaining free or low-cost asymptomatic COVID-19 testing. In the meantime, we have a COVID-19 testing opportunity with Eurofins/Transplant Genomics Laboratory on Monday, March 15. We strongly urge Orinda USD teachers, staff, and administrators to participate in this session. Students and parents/guardians are still welcome to attend, **but need to be aware of the aforementioned changes with insurance companies that may result in parents/guardians getting billed for their family's tests.**

Here are the details for our next testing opportunity:

Date: **Monday, March 15, 2021**
Time: 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Location: District Office, 8 Altarinda Rd., - conf. rooms A and B adjacent to pkg. lot
Parking: District Office lot or across the street in the Masonic Lodge lot
Test: RT-PCR Test (Viral Nasal Swab)

Process Summary

PCR COVID-19 Testing (viral) will be offered. The process will be as follows:

Sign-Up: You must sign-up via the online scheduler to make an appointment. The online scheduler will allow you to download calendar reminders for each participant. Our vendor will monitor the calendar and adjust it to allow for additional appointments if needed.

Click [HERE](#) to register and schedule COVID-19 testing.

The entire process is electronic, so no paper forms are required.

Testing Day: On the day of the clinic, the nurse will collect a nasal swab sample for the RT-PCR test. These are the most sensitive, approved tests from the FDA.

IT IS CRITICAL YOU COMPLETE BOTH REGISTRATION AND SCHEDULING ONLINE (Otherwise testing may be delayed).

After Testing: The sample(s) will be sent to the laboratory to process, and results will be sent to our local health department. When your results are ready to view, an email will be sent to the email address that you used when signing up on the online scheduler. If you did not sign up on the online scheduler, you will receive an email to the email address you input on your Patient Test Request form.

No further actions will be required if the results are negative. If the results are positive, a consultation can be scheduled with a lab scientist or doctor to review the results and the next steps, but we strongly encourage participants with a positive result to consult with their private physician. The testing lab (Transplant Genomics, Inc.) will provide an aggregate report to the school district that will only show the number of negative results and positive results for those tested.

If you would like the school district to know your individual results, then you will need to sign the HIPAA form. If you complete the HIPAA Authorization form, then the school district will be contacted by the lab regarding a positive test result with the names of any employees or families who consent to disclose. The benefit to the school district of having participants sign the form is that it will make contact tracing much easier for those who test positive. If you choose not to sign the authorization form, then you will be contacted directly by the lab if you have a positive result, and you will be encouraged (not required) to self-report.

Questions about this testing opportunity can be directed to Michelle Henrickson, Customer Service Associate, Eurofins, at (925) 271-4719 or via email at covid19support@eurofins-tgi.com.