



Homewood-Flossmoor High School
999 Kedzie, Flossmoor · 708-799-3000 · hfhighschool.org



Sept. 27, 2021

Dear H-F Parents & Guardians:

As the 2021-2022 school year has been in session for a little more than a month at H-F, we would like to thank you for your continued support and cooperation in keeping campus as safe as possible for our students and staff. By using the District 233 COVID Reporting Form, keeping students home when they are feeling unwell, and by getting household members vaccinated when possible, you have been doing your part in keeping our school year on track.

SHIELD Illinois

We are now happy to announce that District 233 will soon be able to begin SHIELD Illinois testing onsite to screen students, teachers and staff for COVID-19 for added safety. Designed by University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign researchers, SHIELD Illinois is a RT-PCR saliva test that has been highly effective at identifying and isolating asymptomatic individuals. In a recent study, the saliva test was shown to have a specificity of 98.9% and a sensitivity of 96.8%. The test should be able to indicate the virus as early as two to three days after exposure. As you may know, asymptomatic individuals may unknowingly spread the virus, causing additional positive cases and/or quarantines. For information about SHIELD, [click here for the SHIELD FAQs from the University of Illinois](#).

TESTING at H-F

At H-F, testing will be offered on an opt-in basis beginning the week of Oct. 25. We strongly encourage unvaccinated students and staff to participate in the testing program. However, all other students and staff are welcome, as well. Parents/guardians can choose to have their students participate in the program by completing the opt-in form that follows this letter and returning it to the Deans' Office in either building. Forms can also be mailed back to: Craig Fantin, H-F High School, 999 Kedzie Ave., Flossmoor, IL 60422. Unfortunately, signed forms cannot be accepted electronically. Once registered, students will be tested weekly during the school day by our SHIELD team. A schedule will be announced once the opt-in registration time ends, which will be Tuesday, Oct. 5.

RESULTS

When testing begins, saliva samples from our school will be sent to SHIELD-participating laboratories. Depending on laboratory workflow, results should be available between 6 to 24 hours after they are collected. Any positive results — and resulting close contacts — will be reported to families by District 233 staff. Results will also be available directly to parents/guardians via your individual SHIELD portal. Families who opt in will receive information from SHIELD about creating their SHIELD portal.

Again, parents/guardians must complete the opt-in form that follows this letter by Tuesday, Oct. 5 and return it to the North or South Deans' Office to have their student(s) participate in SHIELD testing at H-F. Paper copies of the form are also available at the North & South Building security desks, and they will be distributed during Viking Compass classes. As a reminder, please continue to use the District 233 COVID Reporting Form when necessary to alert the district to COVID-19 cases and close contacts that involve your H-F student; the form is available by [clicking here](#). You can track the numbers of reported H-F cases and quarantines at the District 233 COVID Dashboard on our website: www.hfhighschool.org/district-info/covid-dashboard/

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we get SHIELD testing underway at H-F to keep our students, staff and community as safe as possible. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns at the phone numbers or email addresses below.

Sincerely,

Dr. Von Mansfield, Superintendent
708-335-5500, vmansfield@hf233.org

Dr. Scott Wakeley, Superintendent-Elect
708-335-5504, swakeley@hf233.org