



SANTA MONICA - MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dear Parents, Guardians and Staff,

May 25, 2021

We are writing to inform you that SMMUSD is revising the directions regarding our established a COVID-19 Antigen (rapid result) testing Program. This is a voluntary program. Moving forward, we are partnering with a Covid-19 testing company, Covid Testing MD, to conduct our SMMUSD Covid-19 Antigen testing on persons who do not have symptoms.

Covid Testing MD is a fully licensed and insured Covid testing facility. We provide services in conjunction with our doctors and medical staff to provide quick, safe, and effective testing to our patients. We follow all CDC and HIPAA Guidelines to ensure patient confidentiality.

Covid Testing MD will be administering the Abbott BinaxNOW AG cards. Abbott's BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag test is a rapid, reliable and highly portable tool for detecting active COVID-19 infections. The test delivers results in just 15 minutes with no instrumentation, using proven lateral flow technology.

- Most widely-used end-to-end Covid-19 testing solution developed by Abbott Laboratories
- FDA Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) received
- Results reporting in 15 minutes
- High sensitivity and specificity rates (Test sensitivity of 97.1% and specificity of 98.5%)

The recommended frequency is to be tested twice a week for those who choose to participate. Testing will be available for SMMUSD staff and students only. SMMUSD testing is not open to the general public.

Starting tomorrow, May 27th, SMMUSD will offer Covid-19 Antigen testing at each school site during the designated [CovidTesting MD testing schedule for each school site](#). These days/times are subject to change. Students and staff should go to their home school site for this Covid-19 Antigen testing.

The Covid-19 Antigen testing is a rapid test that can be conducted on site with results available within 15 minutes. The difference between the Covid-19 **PCR** tests we are currently offering and Covid-19 **Antigen** tests is that Antigen tests can quickly detect viral RNA and test results are available in as little as 15 to 45 minutes. Covid-19 PCR test results may require waiting several days or longer for results.

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1651 Sixteenth Street • Santa Monica • California 90404-3891 • (310) 450-8338 • www.smmusd.org

Board of Education: Oscar de la Torre • Craig Foster • Jon Kean • Maria Leon-Vazquez

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Please note, it is recommended that *a positive Covid-19 Antigen test should be followed by a Covid-19 PCR test* in order to confirm positive results in persons *without* symptoms. Covid-19 PCR tests will continue to be available for SMMUSD staff and students at John Adams Middle School on Mondays and Thursdays and at Malibu Elementary on Tuesdays for the remainder of the school year. ([PCR testing hub information](#)).

Following travel, a known exposure, or identification of major symptoms consistent with Covid-19 infection (<https://www.smmusd.org/Page/6175>), Covid 19 PCR testing is still needed and the Covid-19 Antigen rapid test will not be accepted in lieu. The rapid antigen test may be used in addition to a PCR to provide a faster response in a suspected case.

Antigen test will be collected via Covid Testing MD nursing staff with a long nasal swab inserted into each nostril for 15 seconds per nostril. The swab is typically self-administered with standby supervision and instruction by CovidTesting MD nursing staff.

Persons wishing to have Covid-19 Antigen testing do not need an appointment time, but **must pre-register for Covid-19 testing**: [Link to Register for Antigen Testing through CovidTesting MD](#) . If you have questions or concerns please contact Dekel Cohen at CovidTesting MD (dcohen@covidtestingmd.com), Barrett Gottlieb (bgottlieb@smmusd.org) or myself (tbrown@smmusd.org).

Staff intake link

<https://hipaa.jotform.com/CovidTestingMD/smmusd-staff-consent-form>



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Student intake link

<https://hipaa.iotform.com/CovidTestingMD/smmusd-student-consent-form>



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