

Q. Why all of the sudden is it so important to make it mandatory when it was optional one week ago?

A. We have had to cancel 3 sports seasons and multiple competitions because of positive cases and quarantining. We are moving into our new hybrid model and many of our athletes attend in person. We are obliged to protect our instructional program, our staff, and students. Additionally, student athlete COVID-19 testing is supported by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Washington Department of Health. Specifically, the CDC recommends student athletes be tested at least once per week.

Q. Where did you get the information from the CDC about testing?

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html>

A summary is below:

Testing Recommendations by Level of Community Transmission			
Low Transmission Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
No screening testing for students	Screening testing for students: expanded screening testing of students ⁴ offered at least once per week		
Testing for high-risk sports: for schools conducting routine testing for sports, testing is recommended at least once per week Testing for low and intermediate-risk sports: for schools conducting routine testing for sports, testing is recommended at least once per week		Testing for high-risk sports: for schools conducting routine testing for sports, testing is recommended twice per week Testing for low and intermediate-risk sports: for schools conducting routine testing for sports, testing is recommended at least once per week	

Q. Who made the decision?

A. The decision was made by district-level administration after consultation with our legal counsel, athletic director, district nurses, and building principal.

Q. Why is it just for the high school?

A. Middle school teams are not traveling or competing outside their school cohorts.

Q. Who wants the information that they're gathering, (nothing is for "free") and is it due to the grant?

A. This is not a part of a grant, but a Federal program. Seattle Children's reports test results as required by law to county, state and federal public health authorities. Seattle Children's will also provide the district with de-identified, aggregated reports regarding testing statistics.

Q. Who is giving the tests?

A. Our nurses, athletic personnel, and a special screener have been trained by Children's Hospital and are the only people authorized to give the test. To be clear the actual swabbing of the students noses will be done by the student not the screener.

Q. What kind of swabs & tests are they using?

A. Sterile foam tipped-swabs. Both BinaxNow and Cue tests are the types of testing being used.

Q. What is being done with the swabs afterwards?

A. Swabs will be disposed of in a manner consistent with the standard precautions taken with collection of specimens.

Q. What is the % of the test are they using? (17% or 30% so that you have more false positives?)

A. The generation of BinaxNOW rapid antigen tests that we have procured are "significantly more accurate than previous generations of rapid antigen tests."

a. Sensitivity (true positive rate): 97.1%

b. Specificity (true negative rate): 98.5%

*source: BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag card CLSI (Abbott)

B. The Cue COVID-19 Test is an isothermal nucleic acid amplification assay. This means the test is used to identify the RNA (ribonucleic acid) sequences that comprise the genetic material of the virus. This test has a low occurrence of false negatives with an average of 98.7% accuracy across 4 clinical studies. There is also a low occurrence of false positives with an average of 97.6% accuracy across 4 clinical studies.

*source: <https://www.cuehealth.com/what-is-cue/how-cue-detects-covid-19/>

Q. Is our district being paid more money from the children's hospital grant, to provide more positive tests?

A. We are not receiving any monetary incentive or compensation for materials, results etc.

Q. If someone comes back with a false positive, do they get to test again?

A. If a student comes back with a positive BinaxNOW and is symptomatic (or is known to be a close contact), then they are considered positive and will be sent home after parents are notified. If they have a positive Binax test and are asymptomatic, then a confirmatory PCR test will be done. If that test is negative, it will be repeated. If we have two negative PCR tests, the student will be considered negative and may participate.

Q. What's next, "mandatory" vaccines?

A. The district cannot mandate COVID-19 vaccination for staff or students. This could only be mandated by a public health authority, not a school district.

Q. What are the protocols for coaches? Are they testing with their teams?

A. Coaches will be tested on the same schedule as their teams, unless they have been vaccinated.

Q. Are they vaccinated?

A. All of our coaches have had the opportunity to be vaccinated. Those that have been vaccinated do not need to be tested.

Q. Can we make sure there is privacy for students?

A. Students will be swabbing themselves in small groups to maximize privacy. Results are sent privately to them via email.