



Dear Parent/Guardian of a HCHS Student,

To limit the risk of having asymptomatic individuals in the school, Hononegah is offering every student and staff member the opportunity to enroll in the SHIELD program sponsored by the University of Illinois. This enrollment is optional but in order for your student to participate, you must register and sign the digital consent form included in this document. **By participating in the SHIELD program, the risk of long quarantines due to close contact can be reduced.***



**If your child has a documented positive case of COVID-19 in the last 90 days, they will not be able to participate in the SHIELD program and will also be exempt from a close contact quarantine during that time.*

What is SHIELD?

The SHIELD program helps to identify asymptomatic students to slow the spread of COVID-19 in the school. By testing students twice a week, it identifies pre-symptomatic individuals and isolates them sooner to prevent further spread.

What is the SHIELD test?

If you consent, your child will receive free diagnostic testing for the COVID-19 virus conducted by collecting saliva (spit).

How does this benefit your student?

By enrolling in the SHIELD program, the student would qualify for the *Test-to-Stay* Program if they are identified as a close contact to a positive case **in the school or school-sponsored activity only** (not a household contact). The *Test-to-Stay* Program uses a test called BinaxNOW for close contacts on days 1, 3, 5, and 7 after the last contact with a positive case. BinaxNOW is a nasal swab test that will be administered by our school nurses, so your student can stay in school as long as they continue to test negative.



How will the SHIELD testing work?

We are arranging for our testing partner to test the students two times per week during the school day. Your child will receive a barcode sticker for the back of his/her student ID. They will enter the testing room, receive the vial for saliva collection, drool into the container, and place it in a receptacle. Our testing partner will transport the tests to Rockford for processing. Results will be posted on an online platform you can access and sent to the school within 12 to 24 hours. See how it works in this [video](#).





How will I find out my child's test results?

You will receive access to your child's test results via an online platform once the SHIELD program begins. In addition, HCHS will also receive results of your child's test and will notify you separately of any positive result.

If your child's test results are positive, please contact your child's doctor immediately to review the test results and discuss next steps.

If your child's test results are negative, this means that the COVID-19 virus was not detected in your child's saliva (spit).

Who will receive my child's test results?

In addition to you receiving your child's test results, the School District and the Illinois Department of Public Health will also receive your child's test results, consistent with IDPH guidance and the Illinois Control of Communicable Disease Code. See [Security and Privacy Information](#).

Is there additional information about the SHIELD test?

See this one page fact sheet. [SHIELD Illinois Facts](#)

Is there additional information about the BinaxNOW test?

See this one page fact sheet. [BinaxNOW Facts](#)

What can I do if I would like more information?

Please email CovidResponseTeam@hononegah.org.

What is the deadline for registering my child into the SHIELD program?

Friday, September 3, 2021. If your child is deemed a close contact, they can **NOT** participate in the *Test-to-Stay* Program without being registered and actively participating in the SHIELD program.

Click to
[REGISTER HERE](#)