



BEXAR COUNTY ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

(PreK 3 - 8th Grade)



Dear Parents/Guardians,

In Bexar County Academy Charter School, we are committed to doing all we can to keep staff and students healthy and safe. With this goal in mind, we are pleased to share that we will be taking part in a statewide program offering rapid tests for use in schools. This program will allow Bexar County Academy to test both symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals—including staff and students-- and reduce the risk to our school community. This email offers further information on the tests and the testing program. <https://tdem.texas.gov/k-12testing>. If you have additional questions, you can contact our school at (210)432-8600 or www.bexarcountyacademy.org

What COVID-19 tests are used in this program?

This program uses BinaxNOW tests, which provide results in 15 minutes and are administered using a nasal swab in the front area of the nostril. These tests have been shown to be highly accurate, with accuracy rates of 97-98% for symptomatic individuals.

Who will be tested and when?

At Bexar County Academy, we will be offering these tests to students on an as needed basis. These tests are optional. We encourage all students who feel they have COVID like symptoms, or have been exposed, to participate in the testing program.

How will the information from the tests be used?

If a parent has given permission for Bexar County Academy to administer the BinaxNOW test for their child, your child's school will call you to let you know that your student is experiencing symptoms and that they will be administering a BinaxNOW test. The test administrator will also call to share the results after the test has been administered. Additionally, the student's parent or guardian will receive test results via text within 15 minutes and will also receive a confirmation email within 24 hours.

The results will also be shared with Bexar County Academy and with the local health department to allow for public health reporting and contact tracing and to determine the stay-at-home period for individuals who test positive. Additionally, the total number of positive tests per school will also be shared with the Texas Department of State Health Services as is required by law.

What happens next?

Tests are available to all students who are showing symptoms of COVID-19. To participate parents must complete a consent form to administer the test.

If your child is experiencing symptoms and you would like for him/her to be tested, please do NOT send him/her to campus. Instead call the school to make arrangements with the health coordinator.