



THE DISTRICT

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YISD among TX school systems chosen to pilot COVID-19 rapid testing

The Ysleta Independent School District today announced its participation in Gov. Greg Abbott's COVID-19 Rapid Testing Pilot Program for schools. YISD is among eight Texas school systems participating in the mass testing pilot program, which will conduct rapid tests of district employees and students.

As COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations remain high in the El Paso area, the district is offering the rapid testing free of charge to employees, as well as students involved in extracurricular activities such as athletics.

Through participation in the pilot program, YISD will receive BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card tests. It is an antigen test, which is designed to detect proteins from the virus that causes COVID-19. Positive results from these rapid tests are highly accurate and can help limit the spread of COVID-19 among families and the larger school community.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, states and territories will receive approximately 100 million of the BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card tests through December, distributed in proportion to their population. Governors will determine the best use of tests for their states, including the reopening of K-12 schools through testing of teachers, staff, and students, among others.

"As more students return to campus for in-person instruction, the State of Texas is working alongside school officials to provide resources to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 among students and staff," Gov. Abbott said. "Thank you to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for providing these advanced antigen tests to the State of Texas.

"This rapid testing pilot program will be an effective strategy to protect the health and safety of students and staff while helping to further ensure that Texas students have access to a quality education throughout the pandemic and beyond," Gov. Abbott added.

Although the start of in-person, face-to-face learning at campuses has been delayed until further notice, YISD will continue to monitor local COVID-19 data and follow city, state, and federal guidance in determining how and when students and staff will return to campus.

For more on Gov. Abbott's Rapid Testing Pilot Program, please contact his office directly at (512) 463-2000.