Student COVID-19 TESTING FAQs

Q: Are students required to take a COVID test?

A: No. However, the Minnesota Department of Health is concerned that people in the 18-35 age range, many of them with no symptoms and no way of knowing they are positive, are driving our community spread to record highs. MDH believes the possibility of continued spread of the virus as students visit family for Thanksgiving poses a serious risk.

Q: I don't feel sick. Why do I need to get tested?

A: The Minnesota Department of Health is concerned that people in the 18-35 age range, many of them with no symptoms and no way of knowing they are positive, are driving our community spread to record highs. MDH believes the possibility of continued spread of the virus as students visit family for Thanksgiving poses a serious risk.

Q: Where can I get a test?

A: The state has put together a list of COVID-19 testing sites at https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/testsites/index.html.

Q: Are tests free?

A: Yes. Testing will be free and available to anyone who wants to be tested whether they have symptoms or not, and it will not require insurance.

Q: Will the results of tests remain private?

A: Access to patient information from this program will follow privacy protections under HIPAA and the Minnesota Health Records Act. MDH will act on positive test results according to protocols that apply to any other positive test result (such as contacting patients directly to discuss isolation and contact tracing).

Q: How are tests administered?

A: Depending on where you get your test, it might be a saliva test or a nasal swab test. Details can be found under the "Which test is right for me?" heading at https://mn.gov/covid19/for-minnesotans/if-sick/testing-locations/index.jsp

Q: What does the saliva test determine?

A: The saliva test examines if a person currently has the virus that causes COVID-19. The saliva test is not an antibody test, which can indicate whether someone previously had the virus.

Q: When will I receive the test result?

A: According to Vault Health's FAQs, results are usually available 48-72 hours after your sample is received at the lab.

Q: How will I receive the test result?

A: According to Vault Health's FAQs, you will receive an email with your test result if you opted into email results. If not, you will get an email notification when results are ready to view in your Vault account online.

Q: Where can I learn more about the saliva test or Vault Health?

A: For more information, please visit the Vault Health website at https://www.vaulthealth.com/covid.