



In cooperation with the Whiteside County Health Department and the Illinois Department of Public Health, Rock Falls High School has been granted permission to begin administering free Rapid PCR COVID-19 Tests on school grounds. This is great news and will, hopefully, allow students and teachers the opportunity to stay in school. Below you will see important information on the topic.

IMPORTANT - Parent Consent is required to rapid test

First of all, please understand that no student will be required to take a rapid test. The only students who will receive the Rapid PCR COVID-19 Tests are those who volunteer to do so. In order to “volunteer” your child for this rapid testing opportunity, parents are required to provide permission through your Skyward Family Access account. If you want to grant parental consent, please follow these three steps:

1. Log into your Skyward Family Access Account by going to www.rfhs301.org and clicking on "Skyward."
2. Once logged in, you can click on "Online Forms" on the left hand side of the screen and choose "COVID-19 Testing Consent Form." It will look like this:

The screenshot shows the Skyward Family Access interface. On the left is a navigation menu with items: Home, Online Forms, Calendar, Gradebook, Attendance, Student Info, and Food Service. The main content area has two notifications. The top notification, titled "An Online Form is now available to fill out", states: "Covid-19 Parental Consent Form is now available to fill out at Rock Falls High School, yet has not been completed for PAETYN. It is due by 01-04-2021. Fill out Online Form for PAETYN". The bottom notification, titled "FAFSA Night Cancellation Reminder", includes a profile icon, the text "Parents/Guardians:", and a timestamp "Tue Oct 27, 2020 9:32am".

3. At the end of the explanation, you can either choose "Yes" if you would like your child to be tested (if they become symptomatic) or "No" if you do not want your child tested while at school. If you do not complete the form, it will default to "No."

The Rapid Testing Consent includes the following items:

You will be asked to sign consent. By signing, you attest that:

- I have signed this form freely and voluntarily, and I am legally authorized to make decisions for the child named above.
- I consent for my child to be tested for COVID-19 virus.
- I understand that my child may be tested multiple times and that testing may occur if they exhibit one or more symptoms of COVID-19.
- I understand that this consent will be valid through the end of the 2020-2021 school year, unless I notify the designated contact person from my child's school in writing that I revoke my consent.
- I fully understand that if I revoke my consent or refuse to sign, my child may be required to continue their education via remote learning until the quarantine period is complete.
- I understand that my child's test results and other information may be disclosed as permitted by law.
- I understand that if I am a student age 18 or older, or may otherwise legally consent for my own health care, references to "my child" refer to me and I may sign this form on my own behalf.
- I understand that with this consent, a certified nurse may administer the COVID-19 rapid test on my child without my prior knowledge.

If you would like more information about the Rapid PCR COVID-19 Testing, please read the following frequently asked questions:

Benefits/Purpose of Testing on-site

We now have access to Rapid PCR COVID-19 Tests that will allow our nurse to administer a COVID test on school grounds, then get results in less than 15 minutes. The purpose of acquiring these tests is to be able to test students and staff who are exhibiting one or more COVID symptoms. This will significantly assist us in the constant battle we are fighting against "quarantined" staff and students.

Who can be tested?

There are two criteria for who can receive these rapid tests:

1. You must be a Rock Falls High School student or staff member.
2. You must be currently symptomatic
 - COVID-19 symptoms include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea.

3. Students that show symptoms while at home or are already quarantined with symptoms should not come to school and request a test upon arrival. We will provide testing by appointment only located at the high school.
**Contact Nurse Feather at 815.625.3886 x253 to set up an appointment.

There will be no cost for the test and testing can begin immediately.

What is “Rapid Testing?”

If you consent, your child will receive a free, rapid, diagnostic test for the COVID-19 virus. Collecting a specimen for testing involves inserting a small swab, similar to a Q-tip, into each nostril (less than one inch).

If you do not consent, your family will be quarantined, based on IDPH guidelines, until a negative COVID-19 test result is received, an alternative diagnosis, or a 10-day quarantine from the start of symptoms. You will then have the option to take your child, at your expense, to a COVID-19 test provider of your choice.

How often would the school test my child?

Your child would only be tested if and when he or she exhibited one or more symptoms of COVID-19.

How will I know if my child tests positive?

The school nurse will have results within 15 minutes of the test, and she will notify parents immediately.

What happens if my child’s Rapid PCR COVID-19 test is negative?

With a negative test result, we would send your child home only if the symptoms warrant they be out of school based on our normal school policies. We would not have to quarantine your child while waiting for COVID-19 results due to our access to rapid tests and your permission on this form. Additionally, under the current IDPH guidelines, if one member of the household has one or more COVID-19 symptoms, the entire household has to be quarantined. By testing your child with symptoms at school, using a rapid test, a negative result would prevent your family from quarantining.

What happens if my child’s Rapid PCR COVID-19 test is positive?

With a positive test result, students would be sent home to isolate. This rapid test would provide us the ability to begin the contact tracing protocol immediately, therefore reducing the exposure to others.

How can the school share this medical information with the health department?

Updated laws, passed due to COVID-19, allow some information about your child to be shared with the Whiteside County Health Department as well as the Illinois Department of Public Health. Information shared includes your child's name, COVID-19 test results, date of birth/age, after school or other program participation, contacts, names of other family members or guardians, address, phone number, and email address.