

SHS Saliva COVID-19 Testing Program FAQs

Q: When should I get tested?

A: You should get tested if:

- ◆ you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19,
- ◆ you are notified that you have been a close contact of a known COVID-19 case,
 - OR
- ◆ your campus/employer is requiring it.

Q: Where can I get tested?

A: You can find the SHS testing sites listed [here](#). However, please note that some campuses require you to seek authorization before testing at SHS. Also, some campuses use other providers for their testing instead of SHS. Please refer to the [testing matrix](#) to determine if you need to go to a different location or seek authorization before going to a SHS testing site.

Q: When will I get my results?

A: You should expect to receive your results within 24 hours. You should receive a notification on your campus email account as well as a text message notification if you have provided us with your US-based cell phone number. If you have not received a notification of your results within 24 hours, please go back to the testing site and ask to speak with a supervisor regarding a missing test result and to verify your contact information.

Q: Do I need to log in to the portal to check my test result every time? Can't I just assume if I haven't received a phone call, everything is fine?

A: It is the student's/employee's responsibility to log in and check their result every *time* they take a test. It is also their responsibility to speak with a testing supervisor if they haven't received their results within 24 hours. There are no automatic phone calls for positive results, so you cannot assume that your test result was normal if you don't receive a phone call.

Q: Is the saliva test at SHS a PCR test?

A: Yes, the saliva test is indeed a PCR test.

Q: If I test positive, what should I do?

A: If you test positive, please isolate yourself immediately. Employees should notify their supervisor and if the employee is on campus, they should leave campus immediately after letting their supervisor know. Students should isolate in their residence and reach out to their dean on-call.

Your positive test result also comes with these instructions, along with instructions on how to complete a contact tracing case intake questionnaire. Compliance with contact tracing is a requirement of a student's enrollment and an employee's employment. This case intake questionnaire should be completed within 24 hours of your positive diagnosis. Failure to comply may result in sanctions from your campus/employer. If you are having any trouble completing this questionnaire, please call the contact tracing line at 909-607-9995 or speak with your dean (students) or supervisor (employees).

Q: If I test positive, can I go back to test again for confirmation?

A: No, repeat saliva PCR testing is not allowed after a positive result. Repeat testing within 90 days of a positive COVID-19 diagnosis may lead to sanctions from your campus/employer. Repeat test orders may also be cancelled and not processed by the lab.

Q: Do I really have to isolate if I have a positive COVID-19 test result?

A: Yes, according to Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, you are **legally required** to isolate after receiving a positive COVID-19 test result.

Q: Will someone reach out to me for contact tracing if I test positive?

A: Your positive test result also comes with instructions on how to complete a contact tracing case intake questionnaire. Compliance with contact tracing is a requirement of a student's enrollment and an employee's employment. This case intake questionnaire should be completed within 24 hours of your positive diagnosis. Failure to comply may result in sanctions from your campus/employer. If you are having any trouble

completing this questionnaire, please call the contact tracing line at 909-607-9995 or speak with your dean (students) or supervisor (employees) for assistance.

Q: I heard that you can now test out of isolation after 5 days. Does this mean I should come back for another saliva test in 5 days?

A: Please DO NOT go back to the saliva testing site to test out of isolation. While it is true that there is an option to test out of isolation after 5 days (if you meet certain criteria), ***the test utilized for this purpose is a rapid antigen test***, not the saliva PCR test. SHS has set up a separate rapid antigen testing site in the parking lot south of the Tranquada Building. After you have completed your contact tracing case intake questionnaire, the contact tracing team will reach back out to you and let you know when you will become eligible to schedule an antigen test. Antigen testing for isolation release will be by APPOINTMENT ONLY. No walk-ups will be accommodated and anyone walking up without an appointment for antigen isolation release will be considered in violation of their isolation order.

Q: What if my rapid antigen test after Day 5 is positive?

A: If your Day 6 or later rapid antigen test is positive, you must complete your isolation for the full 10 days. No repeat antigen testing appointments will be made. Contact tracers will reach out to you on Day 11 to see if you have met criteria for isolation release. Day 11 release does not require a negative test.

Q: When should I start regular testing again after a positive COVID-19 test result? Am I exempt from regular testing for some period of time?

A: After a lab confirmed positive COVID-19 test result, you should not participate in routine asymptomatic screening tests (e.g., weekly testing) for a period of 90 (ninety) days. Public health data shows that individuals may continue to test positive with PCR tests on and off for up to that time even though they are no longer infectious/contagious. If you develop new symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 within this time period, please seek medical guidance (SHS, 7C.Health, primary care provider) to ask if a one-time repeat test would be of diagnostic value to the clinician. Please note that only lab confirmed positive results will exempt you from SHS testing for ninety days. At home testing will not be automatically accepted for this exemption.

Q: What if my positive test was not done at SHS? Will I still be required to isolate? Will I still be exempt from SHS testing for ninety days?

A: If you receive a positive test result from an outside testing location, you are still legally required to isolate. You should inform your on-call dean (students) or supervisor (employees) as soon as you receive your positive test result. You should also inform the SHS contact tracing team* by email: contact.tracers@claremont.edu. Please attach a copy of your positive lab report to the email. After the SHS contact tracing team has completed your case intake, you will be provided a ninety-day testing exemption from the date of your positive lab test. If you develop new symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 within this time period, please seek medical guidance (SHS, [7C.Health](#), primary care provider) to ask if a one-time repeat test would be of diagnostic value to the clinician.

*CMC students and CMC/Pomona/Pitzer employees should reach out to their Hamilton Health Box instead of SHS contact tracing. Scripps Employees should reach out to HITL instead of SHS contact tracing

Q: What if I test positive using an at-home test and didn't go to a testing location? Will I still be required to isolate? Will I still be exempt from SHS testing for ninety days?

A: If you test positive using an at-home test, you are still required to isolate. Please inform your on-call dean (students) or supervisor (employees) as soon as possible. You should also inform the SHS contact tracing team* by email: contact.tracers@claremont.edu. However, please note that only lab confirmed positive results will exempt you from SHS saliva PCR testing for ninety days. At home testing will not be automatically accepted for this exemption. Once you have recovered and been released from isolation, you should resume the saliva PCR testing. If you test positive on the saliva PCR test, it will confirm the previous at-home test result and the SHS contact tracing team will provide you a testing exemption starting ninety days from your at-home test date. You will not be required to isolate again if we were aware of your at-home test result prior to your saliva PCR test. If you test negative on the saliva PCR test, please continue weekly (or as specified by your campus) testing.

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Q: Will a COVID-19 vaccine or booster shot cause my test to turn positive?

A: No. COVID-19 vaccines, including boosters, will not affect your viral test result in any way. If you test positive after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine or booster, it is considered a true positive.