



## **TCS Covid Testing**

Link:

<https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/SchoolTesting#will-the-state-contracted-vendors-manage-any-confirmatory-testing-needed-for-positive-results>

Thomasville City Schools is working to Opt In to a statewide K-12 Covid Testing program to support students and staff with an additional layer of mitigation during this time. This is a state sponsored initiative with contracted, professional testing companies (Concentric by Ginkgo). There is no cost to Thomasville City Schools, our students or employees. All testing supplies are provided and part of the program includes additional personnel and testing professionals to complete the work.

This program will be implemented as soon as requirements and plans are finalized. The goal is to begin the testing program by mid-September and no later than October 1, 2021.

Testing options do not mean mask/face covering requirements are removed. Testing provides an additional layer of mitigation. Masks/face coverings remain required indoors at all Thomasville City Schools buildings and facilities during the school day and during school activities inside buildings and facilities. Mask/face covering requirements will be voted on at each regular monthly meeting of the Thomasville City Schools Board of Education.

### **For Students:**

Students will be eligible to opt-in to the testing program with a signed parent consent form. This is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED AND ENCOURAGED FOR UNVACCINATED STUDENTS. The form will be provided by the school district prior to the start of the testing program. Students who opt in will be tested for screening purposes once a week. Opting in will also allow students to be tested when symptomatic so that quarantining may be lessened due to a negative test or alternate diagnosis. In addition, students who opt in will have testing readily available if needed on day five of quarantine to lessen quarantine time due to exposure.

**IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES** (high contact activities such as athletics, band and chorus, competitive academic and JROTC teams, cheerleading, etc.) it is REQUIRED that students choosing to participate do one of the following:

- Submit proof of up to date Covid 19 vaccination status
- Complete weekly screening test for Covid 19

### **For Employees:**

All employees are HIGHLY RECOMMENDED AND ENCOURAGED to do one of the following:

- Submit proof of up to date Covid 19 vaccination status
- Complete weekly screening test for Covid 19

Employees will be tested through the TCS Testing Program when symptomatic so quarantining may be lessened due to a negative test. Those placed in quarantine will be required to complete testing and provide results through the TCS Testing Program on the earliest date available (day 5) per the NC Strong Schools Toolkit.

Should conditions necessitate, these options for employees may become requirements due to staffing shortages or future actions taken by the board of education following a closure, etc.