COVID-19 Testing FAQ

GENERAL INFORMATION

What kind of COVID tests are being offered?

- TAMU-funded COVID tests: The COVID-19 tests are funded by Texas A&M University and provided by Curative, Inc. These tests are PCR tests (to determine an active COVID-19 infection), are collected via mouth swab, and are available to students, faculty and staff.

- SHS COVID tests: SHS offers two different types of COVID tests available to students, faculty and staff:
  - An antibody blood/serology test to determine the likelihood of a previous COVID-19 infection.
  - A nasal swab/PCR to determine an active COVID-19 infection.

Which test should I choose?

- The TAMU-funded COVID tests are available to all students, faculty and staff free of charge. These tests are only designed to provide you with your mouth swab test result.

- The SHS COVID tests are available to all students, faculty and staff, and insurance will be billed for these tests. Insurance may cover the cost in full, but it is encouraged to check with your insurance provider before scheduling the test. An SHS medical provider will follow up with the patient and assist in his/her care before and after results are available, and will be able to answer any questions the individual may have regarding COVID-19. If a student does not have health insurance, CARES Act funding may be available to cover the cost of the COVID test.

How effective are the COVID tests?

- TAMU-funded COVID tests: Curative, Inc. has stated the sensitivity at >90%.

- SHS COVID tests: PCR tests are approximately 90% accurate. PCR tests are most accurate at day 5-7 after a confirmed close contact with an infected individual.

Where can I get a COVID test?

- TAMU-funded COVID tests are available in the white tent located in the parking lot (Lot 27) adjacent to the A.P. Beutel Health Center. The tent utilized for these tests is a negative air pressure isolation tent. This type of system removes bacterial and viral particles from the air at a rapid rate, giving protection to everyone in the tent from airborne infections.

- SHS COVID tests are available within Student Health Services/A.P. Beutel Health Center. Within the clinic, low risk patient testing is performed in a clean room with enhanced disinfection while maintaining at least a 6 foot physical distance.

NOTICE: Limited parking is available in Lot 27 for clients at this time. It is recommended that individuals utilizing SHS and/or the testing tent park in Lot 30E. To access the testing tent, please utilize Military Walk. Once you arrive at the tent, please practice physical distancing by waiting on the marked steps near the tent.
Who is able to utilize the COVID testing at Student Health Services/A.P. Beutel Health Center?

- TAMU students, faculty and staff are able to utilize the TAMU-funded and SHS testing options.
- To utilize the TAMU-funded testing: Registration for a testing time window can be found here: https://tx.ag/COVIDtest. Walk-ups are not currently allowed, and all individuals must register for a testing time window in advance.
- To utilize the SHS COVID testing: students, faculty and staff are able to present via self-referral (no doctor’s order is needed). Students can self-schedule on the patient portal if they do NOT exhibit any high-risk symptoms. If a student has health insurance, it is recommended he/she bring a copy of the insurance card, or upload it into the patient portal in advance. Schedule your SHS COVID test here: https://shs.tamu.edu/appointments.

Can I get tested for COVID more than once?

- You can get tested for COVID more than once, if needed.

How often is testing available?

- TAMU-funded COVID tests: For all available testing events, please visit https://tx.ag/COVIDtest. Registration for each event typically opens 24-48 hours in advance.
- SHS COVID tests: COVID testing is available Monday-Friday, 8am-4:15pm.

Who should I contact if I have any questions?

- Please contact SHS Patient Services at patientservices@shs.tamu.edu or (979) 458-8310.

What should I do if I miss my assigned testing appointment?

- TAMU-funded COVID testing: if you miss your testing window, please sign up for a new testing window.
- SHS COVID testing: please schedule another appointment online so we are able to reserve your testing time.

If there is inclement weather, will my appointment be cancelled?

- TAMU-funded COVID testing: In the event of inclement weather, please contact SHS Patient Services at (979) 458-8310. Patient Services will advise regarding any temporary location changes for the testing events.
- SHS COVID testing: appointments will not be cancelled unless the student cancels his/her appointment in advance.
COST

Is there a cost associated with COVID testing?

- TAMU-funded COVID tests: The Texas A&M University System has purchased a large allotment of Curative testing capacity to be utilized throughout the fall semester. There is no cost for individuals being tested at this time. Subsequent tests are also free of charge to the participant.

- SHS COVID tests: There is a charge associated with SHS testing, yet insurance may reimburse for the full cost of the test. For students who do not have health insurance, CARES Act funding may be available. Please contact Patient Services at (979) 458-8310 for more information.

SYMPTOMS

If I have COVID symptoms, should I get tested?

- The TAMU-funded COVID tests and SHS COVID tests are available for symptomatic and asymptomatic patients. Please note that symptoms may be due to influenza or other respiratory illnesses. If you are experiencing symptoms, it is recommended that you consider making an appointment with an SHS medical provider. Appointments can be made online at https://shs.tamu.edu/appointments.

What should I do if I think I may be positive and am awaiting results?

- If you have a positive close contact or you have symptoms, please follow quarantine instructions from the CDC. Find these instructions here: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html

WHAT TO EXPECT

What will the testing process look like?

- TAMU-funded COVID tests: First, register online to get a testing time window. You will then receive a link for a video teaching the collection process. Then, check in at the testing site during your testing window. At the testing site, you will then be issued into the testing area for the mouth swab. The entire testing collection process typically takes less than 5 minutes.

- SHS COVID tests: Depending on the testing option you choose, you will either receive a blood draw from an SHS phlebotomist, or you will self-administer a nasal swab with SHS staff instruction. The nasal swab typically takes less than 5 minutes. The blood draw wait time varies.
RESULTS

How long do results take, and how can I access them?

- TAMU-funded COVID tests: Results take 36-48 hours during the week, but there may be a delay on tests done late in the day on Fridays. Results are sent to the email you provided during registration, and will be sent from Curative, Inc.

- SHS COVID tests: Results take 36-48 hours during the week, but there may be a delay on tests done late in the day on Fridays. Results will be sent to you from an SHS medical provider via secure message on the Patient Portal.

What happens if I receive a positive test result?

- If you receive a positive test result, you will be contacted by an SHS medical provider via secure message. This will provide you with medical support and the provider can answer any questions or address any concerns.

- Seek emergency medical care immediately if you show any of these signs: trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion, inability to wake or stay awake, bluish lips or face.

- For now, stay in isolation in your residence and away from other people. Follow the CDC guidance for home isolation. Representatives from the Department of State Health Services will be calling soon. Their number may indicate "unknown" on your phone, but go ahead and answer it. They will give you more information about isolation duration and also ask about your close contacts. Gather the following information to have ready when they call: how you may have been exposed, recent attendance at events (gyms, bars, salons, events such as houses of worship, sporting events, classes), household members, and close contacts (less than 6 feet for at least 15 minutes).

- You are required to self-report to the university through https://redcap.tamhsc.edu/surveys/?s=N38DRD4EMK. This act of Selfless Service will help the university to understand and control the virus on campus and also give you help through the Division of Student Affairs.

What happens if I receive a negative test result?

- If you tested negative but had a confirmed close contact (less than 6 feet for greater than 15 minutes) with an individual who has an active case of COVID, it is recommended you quarantine and stay home for 14 days since last contact.