

May 13, 2021

Dear Stokes School Families:

We are excited to announce that Stokes School has entered a new partnership for COVID-19 PCR clear saliva testing with ShieldT3. Starting May 17th, we will test 100% of our scholars and staff at each campus. COVID-19 testing will be done every Monday upon arrival at the East End Campus and throughout the day at the Brookland Campus.

- **Why are you making a change?**

ShieldT3 is operating with a lab at Gallaudet University, offering much quicker turnaround times than our prior provider in New York. In addition, due to costs, ShieldT3 will let us test all of our on-site staff and students on a weekly basis, as opposed to a smaller percentage.

- **What is ShieldT3?**

ShieldT3 is a new method for testing people for the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which causes COVID-19. Developed at the University of Illinois, CovidSHIELD requires only a small amount of saliva from an individual and provides results within 24 hours. CovidSHIELD has been authorized by the FDA under an emergency use authorization for use by authorized laboratories.

- **How accurate is ShieldT3?**

The saliva test has a sensitivity of 97% and a specificity of 99% with very few false positives. High specificity combined with frequent testing makes the SHIELD saliva-based test extremely accurate.

- **Who would administer the test to my scholar?**

The operations team will observe all scholars during the process.

- **What do I need to do?**

Bringing your scholar to school on your scheduled Monday is key. Talk to you scholar about testing at school instead of home. Practice different way on drooling saliva. Parents at the East End Campus, make sure your scholar doesn't eat, brush teeth, chew gum, within an hour to arrival. As always, the school will provide free breakfast and snack to all scholars. Brookland parents, we will test during the school day making sure scholars have not eaten within the 1-hour frame.

- **Will I know the results?**

The school will contact you directly if your scholar's test comes back positive. In addition, SHIELDT3 lab in Washington, DC (Gallaudet University) will report to DOH. DOH will get in touch with you as well and provide guidance in what to do. Please remember "No News is Good News".

- **Do I need to provide insurance information?**

No, the testing is part of a funded program. There is no cost to you or the school.

- **What personal information will be released to SHIELDT3?**

Basic demographic information: Name, DOB, address, phone number, email address and ethnicity.

- **What will happen with my scholar's saliva once the test has been processed?**

Saliva is destroyed at the same lab the same day.

- **Where can I read/understand more on SHIELDT3?**

Please visit [their website](#).

As we have mentioned in various communications, Stokes School relies on seven safety strategies to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our facilities. One of the most important is weekly testing for our scholars and staff. In order to continue to serve our scholars and families, we must test in a larger scale than our initial goal of 30% so we can quickly identify possible cases and take the necessary actions without a major impact to the whole school.

We look forward to implementing a successful and robust testing program at each of our facilities. As always, if you have questions, please let us know.

We truly appreciate you working with us and helping keep our community safe.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Fresia Cortes', with a small dot above the final letter.

Fresia Cortes

Director of Operation