

Morris Brandon ES Surveillance Testing
Site Based FAQ's
2/2/21

**** PLEASE BE SURE TO BECOME FAMILIAR WITH A MORE DETAILED FAQ PROVIDED BY APS [HERE](#). ****

1) Q: What day and times will surveillance testing take place at Brandon

A: Surveillance testing will take place Tuesday at both PC and MC for as long as APS is offering this service. Surveillance testing will generally take place in the morning following a specific schedule that minimally impacts instruction. MC Surveillance testing will begin on 2/16 and PC testing has already begun.

2) Q: Where will the surveillance testing take place in the building?

A: Surveillance testing will take place in a centrally located empty classroom. Students will be called by the school nurse and brought to the surveillance testing room. The Viral Solutions team are very professional and great with kids. There is only one child in the room at a time and the child is out of class between 5-10minutes. It takes approximately 1m to test a student and results are available immediately.

3) Q: Why was Brandon chosen to be a “pilot” school?

A: Due to our high return numbers we were offered a select spot to pilot the program along with 8 other schools varying in size.

4) Q: Do families need to have insurance or are they billed for an antigen test?

A: The Surveillance testing is free of charge and is provided by Atlanta Public Schools in partnership with Viral Solutions.

5) Q: Does an entire class have to quarantine if a positive result is found in a class?

A: Notifications would be sent via email only to those students/staff who met the criteria for close contact to begin quarantine and this would be a case-by-case situation. The isolation and quarantine guidelines would remain unless a PCR test provides a negative result. Our school nurses will do everything in their power to minimize student anxiety and protect privacy should a positive case arise. A close contact is defined as 6ft or less for a cumulative 15m throughout the school day.

6) Q: How is the test administered?

A: The only surveillance test offered by Viral Solutions in APS is a nasal swab. It is not the traditional deep swab but can be slightly uncomfortable. Students generally feel like they have to sneeze and/or get watery eyes.

7) Q: What happens if my child does not want to take their surveillance test Tuesday morning?

A: We want to make surveillance testing as comfortable as possible. We are not forcing students to take the test. If a child is not given a surveillance test, but has a consent

form, we will contact the parent for notification and next steps. Remember that consent can be withdrawn at any time.

8) Q: What happens if students' results are positive?

A: A student who has a presumed positive test result (significant clinical finding) would be brought to the designated CARE room at school. Parents would be notified by the school nurse and advised to follow up with their primary health care provider or state testing center for a PCR test to confirm the results. School nurses would then begin the case investigation process with health services and all impacted families would be notified.

9) Q: Are parents notified of ALL results?

A: As of right now, there is no communication in regard to a negative test result, only positive results.

10) Q: What if my family recently had COVID-19 and the children continue to have residual positives?

A: The Viral Solutions antigen test is low sensitivity and should not show repeated positives like a high sensitivity PCR test will.

11) Q: Where can I learn more about Morris Brandon Surveillance Testing?

A: Feel free to email Principal Jay Bland (jbland@atlanta.k12.ga.us), PC Nurse Brandy Ford (brandy.ford@atlanta.k12.ga.us), or MC Registered Nurse Lori Oxman (lori.oxman@atlanta.k12.ga.us). Any questions that cannot be answered will be relayed to the APS Health Services Department and a Viral Solutions physician. You can also learn more at our Surveillance testing informational session on **February 19th at 10am**. Link to be shared in the Beemail.

12) Q: When can consent forms be turned in?

A: Consent forms can be turned in to your child's teacher any time this school year and are good for one year. Likewise, parents can remove consent at any time by emailing your homeroom teacher and CC'ing your school nurse (PC-brandy.ford@atlanta.k12.ga.us MC-lori.oxman@atlanta.k12.ga.us)