



PINE FORGE ACADEMY

PINE FORGE | PENNSYLVANIA | EST. 1946

P. O. BOX 338 | PINE FORGE, PA | 19548
T: 610-326-5800 | F: 610-326-5152 | PINEFORGEACADEMY.ORG

COVID-19 TESTING PROTOCOLS:

As recommended by the State of Pennsylvania, all students and staff are to receive coronavirus testing as we start the second semester. Glory be to God; we can perform the testing on our PFA campus. The purpose of testing is to identify the presence of COVID-19 on our campus and then mitigate its spread among our population, promote the campus's health and well-being, and to ensure a safe on-campus school year for our students. A comprehensive testing program does not replace the behaviors that have proven to protect humans against the virus: wearing a mask, washing your hands, and watching your distancing (6ft).

How is the Test Administered?

Nasal Swab (a less invasive test than the deep nasopharyngeal swab) will be used and performed as follows:

1. The swab will be inserted 1 to 1.5cm into the nostril.
2. The swab will be rotated against the inside of the nostril for 3 seconds and repeated in the other nostril.
3. The swab will then be placed into the 3 ml viral transport medium and transported to the PFA lab for testing.

What is Being Tested?

Pine Forge Academy's best-in-class Cepheid GeneXpert System performs:

- Real Time (RT) Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) to detect SARS-COVID-2 (aka COVID-19)
- Influenza (FLU) A and B
- Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV).

COVID-19 is the primary virus we are concerned with, however, if a child or teacher tests positive for FLU A or FLU B, isolation will be necessary for 2-3 days. RSV is not considered a threat to our student or teacher's age population, however, if the test comes back positive, this information will be shared, as the individual should avoid contact with young children for 2-3 days.

A single swab sample is used to test for all four of these viruses.

When will the testing occur?

Your testing will be performed as soon as you arrive to campus with your parents. This is the first step before completing registration and moving into your dorm room. **Once you are swabbed, you will receive clearance to complete the onboarding process.**



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Where will testing occur?

Testing will take place in the Nurse's office (log cabin to the left of Kimbrough Hall). **You are to precede to this location as soon as you arrive to the campus.** Remain in your car and call **610-246-4265** if a member of the medical team is not present.

What should I expect during the procedure?

A member of the health team will approach in full PPE (personal protective equipment) to verify your name and date of birth. Once verified, you will be asked to step out of the car to be swabbed. During the procedure, your eyes may water, along with feeling like you need to cough or sneeze. You may feel some slight discomfort for a short period of time.

When should I expect my test results?

The test results should be available in less than an hour. However, a large number of tests will be performed in a condensed period of time. Delays are expected. You and your parents will be contacted when your test results are available. Additionally, if the test returns inconclusive, then a subsequent sample may be required.

Who will perform the test?

The test will be administered by our CLIA certified laboratory director, health care administrator, and other professionally trained staff.

What if I have symptoms of COVID-19 later in the school year, will I be tested immediately?

Not necessarily, you could be placed in isolation for 24 hours and then tested for the virus later. This will allow more time for viral load to build up in the nose and thus increase the accuracy of the test. It has been well documented that children may develop symptoms before shedding enough virus for PCR tests to detect the virus. The decision whether to test and the timing of the test will be determined by our clinical laboratory director.

What if the test results are positive?

If your test results are positive and you have manageable symptoms, you will isolate for 10 days in an extra care zone. This option is limited by capacity and the determination of our health care team if you are asymptomatic or if your symptoms are manageable. You may be retested, if deemed necessary by our medical team.

What if my test results are negative?

If your test results are negative, you are still required to complete the guidelines as stated in the Health and Safety Task Force Policy and Procedure Manual: wear a mask, 14-day quarantine with your roommate, practice social distancing, and complete daily health screening. Keep in mind, asymptomatic virus spread and/or symptoms can occur anywhere from 2-14 days from exposure. Individuals could have a false negative result if the viral load is not sufficient during the initial testing.



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You could be placed in isolation based on symptoms and retested for the virus to ensure accuracy of the test results. This will be performed on a case-by-case basis, if a person exhibits symptoms consistent with COVID-19.

What is the accuracy of a PCR test?

The Cepheid GeneXpert RT PCR SARS-COVID-2 test is an extremely accurate test. Its ability to rule out an infection is almost 100% trustworthy, compared to reference commercial lab PCR tests. Its ability to rule in an infection is around 97% trustworthy by the same comparison. This means that a positive test does not necessarily mean that the virus is present, especially if the person exhibits symptoms. TESTING IS NOT A PERFECT SCIENCE. Testing requires interpretation by qualified health care providers taking into account clinical pretest probability on a case-by-case basis. Retesting will be discussed with involved parties on a case-by-case basis.

How often will I be tested?

If testing supplies are available, the entire student population will be tested again 5-7 days after arrival in order to capture previously missed asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic carriers. You also may be required to test again should you have symptoms indicative of COVID-19 or if required by the medical team to help decrease the spread of the virus.

What if I do not consent to testing?

Testing is mandatory for all students who desire to attend in-person classes on campus.

If I give consent, does that mean the school can test without notifying a parent?

No, although consent has been given, parents will be notified of a change in condition and be advised of recommendations given by the medical staff.

Where can I get additional information?

Please refer to the Pine Forge Academy Health and Safety Task Force COVID-19 Policy and Procedure manual or contact the Health administrator at amcneil@pineforgeacademy.org.

To find out more information about our testing unit, please visit the Cepheid website at [Cepheid | Xpert® Xpress SARS-CoV-2 has received FDA Emergency Use Authorization](#)

Thank you for taking the time to review this document to make sure your return to campus is a smooth process. We look forward to your safe return.