

**Aptitude Clinical Testing for GUSD
FAQ for Parents**

New additions are highlighted in yellow...

Q. What is this testing program?

A. In short, this is an opportunity for families to streamline the process for making sure their child/ren can be back in school as quickly and safely as possible in the event a child displays symptoms that require a negative COVID-19 test in order to return to school. As it stands, we know that the process of getting a test, paying for that test, and waiting for results is burdensome for families.

Q. I'm having trouble signing up. Who can help me?

A. Aptitude has created a dedicated email address to support our students and staff. The email address is schooltestingsupport@aptitudemedical.com.

Q. What is the test like? Will someone put a swab inside my child's nose?

A. No. The test that [Aptitude Medical Systems, Inc](#) uses detects COVID-19 in saliva specimens. The child will merely need to fill a small vial with saliva. A video modeling saliva sample collection can be found on the [Aptitude website](#).

Q. What are the three different testing scenarios?

- A. Symptomatic Testing, Response Testing, and Surveillance Testing
1. Symptomatic testing takes place when a parent or guardian requests a test for a child who displays symptoms of having COVID-19. The test takes place on the child's school campus in a spot designated by the principal. The child provides a saliva sample, and the sample is tested at Aptitude's lab in Goleta. Results will be available in 24 hours.
 2. Response testing takes place when it is determined that a student has come in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 while masked at school. Students with a negative test can return to school under a "modified quarantine." Please refer to the next question for more information on "modified quarantine."
 3. Surveillance testing takes place approximately every six weeks. Participating students are tested with their grade level.

Q. If I am signed up for the Aptitude testing program and my child is sick on the weekend, how do I get access to a free saliva test from Aptitude?

A. GUSD is not staffed to offer testing over the weekend. During the weekend, Aptitude's customer service will provide testing authorization on behalf of GUSD schools.

The procedure for the staff/family to get tested will be:

- 1) Please don't book on the Aptitude website. The test booked through the Aptitude website will be non-refundable.
- 2) Call Aptitude School Testing Customer Service line (805) 259-1499 during business hours. You can also reach Aptitude Customer Service by email at schooltestingsupport@aptitudemedical.com.
- 3) Provide school district name (GUSD), the child/staff's name, and DOB to the customer service representatives (CSR) to search and verify the identity.
- 4) If the child/staff is in the system, Aptitude CSR will send the sample submission email.
- 5) Once the sample submission email is received, GUSD staff/family can then proceed to the Aptitude sample collection site at Earl Warren Showgrounds for testing.

6) Please forward the email with the results to the principal.

Aptitude's Weekend Business Hours at Earl Warren Showgrounds:

Saturday: 10:00 AM -12:30 PM and 1:45 PM to 2:30 PM

Sunday: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Q. When does surveillance testing occur?

A. The program began on October 11th. Only students whose parents/guardians have signed-up will participate. Testing occurs on a 4-week testing cycle with two grade levels testing each week. Our regular weekly testing day will be Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday/Friday. Here is what the testing cycle will look like:

4 Week Cycle for Aptitude COVID Surveillance Testing

Cycle Week	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Grade Levels	5 & 6	3 & 4	1 & 2	TK & K & GFS
	10/11 & 10/18	10/25	11/1	11/8
	11/15	11/29	12/6	12/13
	1/3	1/10	1/17	1/24
Testing Weeks	1/31	2/7	2/14	2/21
	2/28	3/7	3/14	3/28
	4/4	4/11	4/18	4/25
	5/2	5/9	5/16	5/23
Holiday Information	If our testing day lands on a holiday when school is closed it will be rescheduled to another day that same week.			

Students who have opted-in now have access to response and symptomatic testing at their school. To maintain social distancing and protect everyone's health, we will only take scheduled appointments during site-specific windows of time. Please call your school office to schedule an appointment.

Moreover, beginning Monday, October 11th, if you have OPTED-IN and your student needs a test off-campus, you will have access to free testing by Aptitude at Earl Warren Showgrounds, 3400 Calle Real, Santa Barbara, CA 93105 (enter through Gate B and follow the Covid Testing Signs). Please call your school office to schedule an appointment before going to the testing site. To maintain social distancing and protect everyone's health, Aptitude will only take free testing appointments if they are scheduled via the school at this time. Aptitude hours of operation at Earl Warren Showgrounds are 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM and 1:45 PM to 3:00 PM weekdays.

Q. Can our family enroll our child in Response Testing and Symptomatic Testing but not

Surveillance Testing?

A. No. At this time, families who wish to participate in one of the testing scenarios must agree to participate in all three. The contract with Aptitude is for a package of services.

Q. If four family enrolls one child, are they required to enroll all children in the family?

A. No. Families can choose on an individual basis. In fact, if you want all children in your family to have access to testing, you must enroll each of your children individually.

Q. What if I choose not to enroll at first, but then change my mind?

A. So long as slots are available, you may enroll your child; however, enrollment is not immediate and may take several days to complete.

Q. The word “aptitude” reminds me of testing someone for intelligence or ability. Is that part of these tests?

A. No. [Aptitude Medical Systems, Inc](#) is the name of the company that’s doing the testing. It simply has the word “aptitude” in it. Their test, the ACT (Aptitude COVID-19 Test) assay, is a high- sensitivity Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (also called NAAT/molecular/ PCR/viral test) that detects the nucleic acid from the SARS-CoV-2 in saliva specimens.

Q. What is modified quarantine?

A. Although we make every effort to ensure that students are not exposed to COVID at school, asymptomatic students and staff who are subsequently determined to be infected may have been present. If your child is not fully vaccinated and both your child and the infected person were wearing masks in a supervised school setting, your child can continue to attend school in-person, if they:

1. Remain symptom free
2. Continue to wear a mask
3. Get tested twice: right after exposure notification and again 3 days later
4. Do not participate in extracurricular or community activities, such as sports, until their modified quarantine ends

Modified quarantine ends on Day 8 if a test taken on or after Day 5 is negative.

Q. What are the benefits of participating in this program?

A. There are several

1. It’s free.
2. The test is non-invasive. The student provides some saliva, so there’s no swabs involved.
3. Quick testing results
4. No need to schedule appointments with medical providers to clear a child to return to school.
5. Symptomatic students who test negative may return to school when symptoms are improving and no new symptoms have appeared in past 3 days
6. Students who test positive will be readily and easily identified, allowing for quicker isolation and quarantine.
7. Students who are positive can return to school 10 days after their symptoms started or if asymptomatic, 10 days after the date of the test.

Q. Are students required to participate in this program?

A. No. But we believe that participating will be very beneficial to many families, and that’s why we’re excited to offer this opportunity. It streamlines the process for families who have a child(dren) who

exhibits COVID-19 symptoms and have to be held out of school.

Q. If there's no cost to me, why do I have to provide my insurance information?

A. Aptitude receives federal funding for the uninsured, and is therefore required to ask about insurance coverage. Anyone who attests to being uninsured will be covered through Aptitude's federal grant. Although there is no out of pocket cost to those who do attest to having insurance, Aptitude will bill insurance when available. Again, though, there will be no cost to you.

- It should also be noted that Senate Bill 510 requires health insurance companies to cover the costs for COVID-19 diagnostic and screening testing and health care services related to the testing for COVID-19 and prohibits such companies from imposing cost sharing or prior authorization requirements for that coverage. The bill also applies these provisions retroactively beginning from the Governor's declared State of Emergency related to COVID-19 on March 4, 2020. Governor Newsom signed this bill into law on October 8, 2021. To opt in you must either attest to not having insurance or provide the insurance information.

Q. Why are two tests required during modified quarantine? Isn't one enough?

A. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has determined that two tests during modified quarantine are necessary.

Q. What exactly is a "close contact?"

A. For COVID-19, a close contact is anyone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes within the same 24-hour period).

Q. Who determines if my child was in close contact with someone who is positive for COVID-19?

A. All GUSD School Nurses are fully credentialed by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing and have additionally trained in contact tracing by Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies.

Q. What about kids who are just sick, but not with COVID-19? Can they come to school? I'm concerned with the flu season coming up.

A. For non-COVID related illnesses, we'll keep our regular protocols (pre-COVID) in place. If our office/nursing staff believes it's best for the ill student and those in their class to not be at school, the student will be sent home. Students with known non-contagious illnesses such as allergies or asthma may be allowed to remain at school with a negative molecular test result or medical certification. Once COVID has been ruled out by a negative test result or a note from a physician and symptoms are improving, the school nurse can allow the student to return to school.

Q. Who will know about my child's results?

A. Aptitude will share the results with you and the district through a secure portal. Aptitude is also required to report all test results, positive and negative, to Public Health.

Q. If I have more questions, who should I contact?

A. Your principal and school nurse will be able to help you find the information you need to make your choice about your child's participation.