



San Antonio Independent School District

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Sam Houston High School

Mrs. Sharene Dixon,
Principal

Dear **Hurricane** Students & Families

The health and safety of our students and staff is our main priority. The efforts you have taken with your students online, in-person, and with each other to start and stay Hurricane Strong have made me so proud to be a part of this district!

We know every day that we are not in a classroom with our students is one more challenge they are facing when it comes to their education. That is why I am thrilled that we have been granted the opportunity to partner with [Community Labs](#) to help us get back to school classrooms, in school buildings, safely. Community Labs is a local nonprofit organization that is creating a safe pathway for schools to reopen safely allowing for in-person learning, for people to return to work, and communities to thrive. This innovative, nonprofit laboratory is changing how traditional COVID-19 testing is currently conducted with **24-hour turnaround, 95% accuracy, and is less invasive by swabbing** in the front of the nostril.

Here's how this will work:

In extended efforts to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and assist with students, faculty and staff feeling safe, we are offering weekly COVID-19 test via Community Labs for the rest of the first semester. These test are paid for through a grant that extends through 2020. The Community Labs screening process uses a PCR test—the FDA gold standard in COVID-19 testing. The actual test is painless and uses a less-invasive method that is **95% effective in detecting asymptomatic silent spreaders** of the virus. The screening is free to all students and staff thanks to a generous grant from local philanthropists.

Here are the next steps we will take as a school community:

If you are interested in getting the weekly test for the rest of the semester for your child, please sign the consent form giving your child permission for weekly screening by Community Labs.

Unlike other COVID-19 tests you may have seen, a swab of the inside front of the nostril-- not deep in the nasal cavity-- is all that is needed. [Here is a video that shows the test being administered](#). In the initial phase, the screening will be performed on-campus at Sam Houston HS Every Tuesday, from 3pm-5pm.

Within 24-hours or less, you will receive an email with your results.

Those who test positive and are asymptomatic will be required to quarantine at home. Those who are not, can return to the classroom with other students and staff who have tested negative and are COVID-19-free.

All test results are private. Only you and the Sam Houston HS Health Services Department will know the results of the test.

I know we all are looking forward to returning to a new sense of normal. I am confident this screening process is a step in the right direction to help our students and teachers return to a classroom with students learning with their teachers by their side.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Central office at 210-554-8400

With gratitude,

Pedro Martinez
Superintendent
San Antonio Independent School District