



San Antonio Independent School District

Benjamin Franklin Elementary School

Dear Franklin 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 Franklin 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:

Any student or staff member who has COVID-19 symptoms is instructed to stay home. Each student and staff member who comes to a campus for in-person instruction will have a health screening and their temperatures checked daily before entering the campus. This process helps us move all those showing symptoms into quarantine and not on our campus where they could infect others. Community Labs will begin by performing optional weekly COVID-19 screening for all staff and students, to determine if anyone is an asymptomatic carrier of COVID-19 - that is, someone who is positive for COVID-19, but has no symptoms. When we identify and quarantine these asymptomatic carriers, we know the remaining students and staff are COVID-19-free and healthy. In the coming weeks, we will then scale to the rest of the student body at Franklin Elementary as more students come in for in-person instruction. Following that, we will begin adding all remaining campuses to the program. With this program from Community Labs, we can create COVID-19 Safety Zones on each campus, allowing students and teachers the confidence to go back to teaching and learning safely.

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:

Please sign the consent form giving 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 Franklin each **Thursday**, from **12pm – 1pm**.

Within 24-hours or less, you will be emailed 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 SAISD 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 210-554-2200.

With gratitude,

Pedro Martinez
Superintendent
San Antonio Independent School District