



SHIELD ILLINOIS AND THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

CASE PARTICIPANTS
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Frequently Asked Questions

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How do I create an account under this program?

Instructions on how to create an account for the SHIELD patient portal are provided in the letter you received as a case participant. You will need this account to schedule tests, and you will login to this account to view your test results as well.

Do I need to give consent?

Yes, we will require your consent to participate in the testing program and your permission to receive a copy of your results. The consent form can be found on the Court's website by clicking [here](#).

Does my health insurance get charged?

No. This program is Court ordered and you will not be responsible for any charges. You will not need to present any health insurance information.

When will I take my test?

You will be required to take your first self-administered Covid-19 test three (3) business days prior to the start of the trial or hearing. Schedule your test using the account your created via the SHIELD patient portal.

How frequently do I need to test?

During jury trials, individuals must take the test twice each week.

Where is the testing room located?

The testing room is located within the courthouse.

When is the testing room open?

Chicago – Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Rockford – Tuesday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

What do I need to bring with me?

You will need to bring your government issued id (i.e. driver's license or state identification) and the QR code provided when you scheduled your appointment. The first time you test, you will also need to bring the completed consent form.

How long before taking the test do I need to stop eating or drinking?

You must refrain from eating, drinking, brushing your teeth, using mouthwash, or using any tobacco products one hour prior to taking the saliva-based test. We recommend that you drink plenty of water the morning of the test to help produce the saliva.

How long does the test process take once I arrive?

The testing process will take approximately five to ten minutes.

How long does it take to receive the results?

Current notification time for the saliva test is less than 24 hours, compared to a 2-3-day turnaround time for most currently available tests.

How will I receive the results?

You will receive an email and text from SHIELD Illinois that your test results are available to view. You will then log into their portal to view their test results.

Who can access the results?

Results will also be sent to the Clerk of Court and the supervisors in the Jury Department. Shield Illinois must notify the Illinois Department of Public Health of a positive test result. If you test positive for the Covid-19 virus, you should email the courtroom deputy of the judge that is assigned to the case to inform them that you will not be able to attend the hearing or trial. Please see [General Order 21-0006](#) for further information.

Is the test accurate?

This test is extremely accurate; there are almost no “false positive” or “false negative” results.

Will this test look for the new COVID variants?

The SHIELD Illinois test can screen for variants of concern.

If I receive a positive test result from this test, do I have to go and receive another test from another provider?

SHIELD Illinois reports positive results to the individuals and the Illinois Department of Public Health within 24 hours of the sample reaching the lab. No follow up testing is needed.

Why am I asked my demographic information, including my race and date of birth?

The laboratory that processes the tests needs to confirm the identity of the individual being tested. To do so, they require your date of birth. In addition, all positive test results must be reported to the Illinois Department of Public Health in accordance with the Illinois Control of Communicable Diseases Code (77 Ill. Adm. Code 690.200(a)(5)) and demographic information is required for this reporting process.

What if I have a religious objection to the test?

Any individual who has a religious objection to the saliva-based testing protocol is directed to notify the Chief Judge of the District Court in writing, setting forth the specific concerns to enable the Court to propose a reasonable accommodation, or can appear remotely.

What if I have a physical disability that prevents me from taking this test?

Any individual who has a medical objection to the saliva-based testing protocol is directed to notify the Chief Judge of the District Court in writing, setting forth the specific concerns to enable the Court to propose a reasonable accommodation, or can appear remotely.

Is my DNA kept or analyzed as part of this test?

No. All samples are destroyed after testing.

Can I take this test at home?

No. The SHIELD Illinois test must be completed in the testing room.

I have already received my Covid vaccine. Do I still need to take these tests?

Yes. Individuals who have received the Covid vaccines will still need to participate in this program, because an individual who has been vaccinated may still pass the virus to an unvaccinated person.

I was diagnosed with Covid months ago. Will this test detect the antibodies and indicate a positive test result?

No, the test only picks up viral (that is, live) RNA. Previous infections may show up, but the laboratory can distinguish between those and reinfections.

I received the Covid vaccine. Will the test provide false results?

No, the test only picks up viral RNA. Vaccination will not affect it.

I have heard some recent news about saliva based Covid tests in the media. What should I know about the SHIELD Illinois test?

The recent news reports have not been regarding SHIELD Illinois. SHIELD Illinois is a testing program that deploys the saliva test, which

- uses Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) certified labs,
- operates under an Emergency Use Authorization from the Food and Drug Administration,
- does not require a referral for a diagnostic test when a positive test result is returned, and
- provides results such as positive, negative, etc.