



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

EMPLOYEE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Frequently Asked Questions

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What employees are eligible to test after September 20, 2021?

- Employees, contractors, judges, and staff (of any court or agency) who are assigned to work with potential jurors and persons selected for petit jury.
- Any employee exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual while present at either Courthouse or while in the performance of their official work duties may participate in the screening program.

What do I need to bring with me?

You will need to bring your government or employee id, and either a printout of your QR code supplied to you when you made the appointment or share the screen on your smart phone/device when you arrive for your appointment.

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 your health insurance information.

How long does the test process take once I arrive?

You should plan on the entire testing process to take five minutes.

How long does it take to receive the results?

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

How will I receive the results?

Employees will receive an email from SHIELD Illinois that their test results are available to view. The employee will then log into their portal to view their test results.

Who can access the results?

For employees, only the employee can access the results. For jurors, results will be sent to the Court's Jury Department. Any positive test result must be shared with the Illinois Department of Public Health. Please see General Order 21-0006 for further information.

As an employee, will my supervisor have access to my test results?

No. As an employee, you will only have access to your test results, but you must notify your supervisor of a positive test result.

What time is the testing room open?

Beginning September 20, 2021, the testing room at the Dirksen Courthouse will be open from 8am until 12pm. Special testing times will be blocked for petit jurors. The Roszkowski Courthouse testing location will be open from 9am until Noon beginning three days prior to any jury trial. If an individual needs to test at the Roszkowski Courthouse outside this schedule, they should call, 312-543-3095.

Where is the testing room located?

In the Dirksen Courthouse, the testing room is located on the second floor, room 211. This is the large meeting room accessed from the cafeteria. In the Roszkowski Courthouse, the tests will be administered in the lobby atrium.

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

You are not able to eat or drink one hour prior to taking the saliva-based test.

Is the test accurate?

This test is highly accurate. The accurate test and frequent testing makes the SHIELD Illinois' saliva-based test extremely accurate.

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 identify the sample to the individual that provided the sample and 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.

Where do I make an appointment for the test?

Employees will be provided a web link to make an appointment for their test. Appointments will avoid crowded testing rooms.

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.

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.

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

No. All SHIELD Illinois labs are CLIA-certified, meaning they meet federal standards for lab accuracy and reliability. 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 that have received the Covid vaccines will still need to participate in this program. An individual that has been vaccinated can still pass the virus to a person that has not received the vaccine.

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

No, the test only picks up viral RNA. Previous infections may show up, but the laboratory should be able to 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.