



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

JUROR 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 prospective juror. 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. You will be provided a consent form to sign.

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?

On the first day you are summoned for jury service, you will take the test after you complete your questionnaire. Special testing times will be blocked for additional testing of jurors who are selected for a trial.

How frequently do I need to test?

You will be tested on your first day of jury service. If you are selected as a juror on a trial, you will test twice a week for the duration of the trial.

Where is the testing room located?

The testing room is located within the courthouse.

What do I need to bring with me?

The first time you test, you will need to bring your jury summons, your government issued id (i.e. driver's license or state identification), and the consent form that will be provided to when you arrive for jury service.

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?

On the first day you are summoned for jury service, you should plan to be at the Courthouse no more than three hours to complete your written questionnaire for the trial and take your Covid test. 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 Court's Jury Department. Any positive test result must be shared with the Illinois Department of Public Health. If you are empaneled on a jury, the judge presiding over the case will also be notified, but no one else will be notified without your permission. 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.

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 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.