Abbott BinaxNOW COVID-19 Antigen Test
Frequently Asked Questions

What is the test that TGS is offering?

The Abbott BinaxNOW Antigen Card tests for the virus that causes COVID-19. The results of this test can be processed on campus and will be available within 15-20 minutes. The quick turnaround time for the BinaxNOW test means that people who test positive can be isolated quickly before they risk infecting other people. You can get a Fact Sheet about the test at https://www.fda.gov/media/141569/download.

How is this test different than that being offered in labs around town?

This test is sometimes called a "point-of-care" (POC) test because no laboratory is needed to conduct the test, and results are available in less than half an hour. The test is different from a PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test which looks for SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acids and takes several hours or days to get results.

Who will be tested?

In order to help keep everyone on campus healthy, the test will be available during school hours to TGS students and faculty/staff who are presenting with COVID-19-like symptoms and/or to those who are not fully vaccinated and have been identified as having been in close contact with someone with COVID-19.

Is there a charge to be tested?

The Abbott BinaxNOW test is free; there is no cost to you. The Gregory School has paid to be part of the Pima County program providing these tests.

Will consent be required for a student to be tested?

Yes, consent from a parent or legal guardian will be required before a test will be performed on a student, regardless of the student's age. A consent form can be signed in advance, so testing can be performed at the school's discretion during the year, but the school will still attempt to notify the parent/guardian even if a consent form is on file with the school. Consent can be revoked in writing at any time by contacting _____. If consent is not given for a student, The Gregory School will determine an appropriate plan based on the circumstances of the situation, just as it has done all year.

How is the test done?

A trained staff person will insert a small swab, like a Q-Tip, about 2 centimeters (less than one inch) into the front of one of your nostrils (this is not the long swab used in other tests). The swab will be swirled around several times, removed, and then repeated on the other nostril. This process may be mildly uncomfortable, but should not cause any pain. After testing, the person will be directed to a designated waiting area until test results are available.

How quickly will results of the test be received?

Results are available approximately 15 minutes after the swab is completed, and a form providing the test results will be provided. If there is an error in the test causing it to be invalid, the test will be repeated.

Is the test reliable?

Generally, yes, the test results can be relied upon. However, the test sometimes produces incorrect false negatives or false positives. For this reason, people who test negative with BinaxNOW and either have symptoms or are not fully vaccinated and have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 should follow up with a PCR test.

What should I do when I receive the test results?

Carefully read the information you get with your test results which will tell you what you should do next. These instructions may change over time, as public health recommendations are changed or updated, but the current instructions are summarized below.

- *POSITIVE:* A positive test result means the test found the virus that causes COVID-19 in the swab from your nose. You will be required to quarantine and should talk to your doctor about your test result. You will also work with TGS to determine a plan to return to school.

- *NEGATIVE:* A negative test result means the test did not find the virus that causes COVID-19 in the swab from your nose. However, the infection may be just starting and the amount of virus may be too little to detect by the test. So:
    - *If you have symptoms OR are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and have been exposed to someone with COVID-19*, you need to quarantine and get a PCR test as soon as possible. You will also work with TGS to determine a plan to return to school.
    - *If you are (a) fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and have no symptoms, or (b) are not fully vaccinated, have no symptoms AND have not been exposed to someone with COVID-19*, you need to take everyday

precautions like washing your hands, physical distancing, and wearing a mask.

- *INVALID:* An invalid test result means there was an error in your test. You should get a PCR test as soon as possible. If you have symptoms or are not fully vaccinated and have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, you need to quarantine.

If you need to get a PCR test, testing locations can be found at www.pima.gov/covid19testing or by calling the Pima County Health Department at 520-724- 7770.

Who else will get the personal information and test results?
Information is shared only for public health purposes, such as case investigation, contact tracing, and communicable disease analysis, to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Sharing of information about you or your student will only be done in accordance with applicable laws and policies protecting your privacy and the security of your or your student's information. Test results may be shared with:
- Arizona Department of Health Services (AZDHS)
- Pima County Health Department (PCHD)
- AZDHS and PCHD contracted service providers for COVID-19 case investigation, contacttracing, and other public health functions
- Any other entity required under law

These organizations follow strict privacy and confidentiality protocols and all laws to protect your privacy.

Who can I contact at TGS if I have questions about this test or the protection of my personalinformation?
You may call TGS (520-327-6395) to speak with someone and/or email one of the following staff members: Maria Parillo (mparillo@gregoryschool.org) or Angela Earnhart (aearnhart@gregoryschool.org).

How can I learn more about COVID-19 and how to keep me and my family safe?
There are lots of places to go for accurate information about COVID-19, including:
- The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
  - www.coronavirus.gov
- The Arizona COVID-19 Hotline – translation available for those who do not speak English
  - 844-542-8201 (open every day, all day: 24 hours per day, 7 days per week)
- The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS)
  - www.azdhs.gov
- The Pima County Health Department (PCHD) – Spanish speaking staff available
  - www.pima.gov/covid19
  - 520-724-7770 (open Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm)