

FAQ – SHIELD TESTING

When will the SHIELD testing start?

A: SHIELD testing is set to begin on October 4, 2021 at all JWCC centers.

What is SHIELD testing?

A: SHIELD testing is a free, non-invasive, saliva-based test created by the University of Illinois. This test has been used at the University of Illinois for one full academic year and at many more colleges and universities throughout Illinois for several months. More information is available at <https://www.uillinois.edu/shield>.

What are the benefits?

A:

1. It's free
2. Non-invasive – nothing will be stuck up your nose.
3. Fast Notification – Results are typically available within 24 hours of testing after reaching the lab in Springfield.
4. The saliva test has a specificity of 99.8-99.9%, with very few false positives. Studies to date are consistent with this saliva test not being less accurate than a nasal test.

Who will participate in the testing?

A: All **non-vaccinated** students and faculty/staff will need to test once a week. Also anyone coming to campus for regularly scheduled activities.

How often will I be tested?

A: At least once per week

If I don't have symptoms, do I have to test?

A: Yes, unless you are vaccinated. The Governor's Executive order mandates testing or showing proof of vaccination.

I already had COVID-19. Do I need to get tested?

A: If you have tested positive for COVID within the last 90 days and the college has documentation of a professionally administered test, you do not need to get tested. After those 90 days are up, weekly testing will resume.

Do I have to test if I have all online classes?

A: If you do not physically come to campus for anything, you do not need to test weekly. However, you will need to test before coming to campus to regularly use the facilities.

What if I don't want to test at JWCC or miss the testing window at JWCC?

A: You can show proof of vaccination or you can test once per week with a reputable third party, such as the Health Department, your doctor, or Walgreens.

What if I get tested weekly at my workplace? Do I have to test again?

A: No, you do not have to test again. You can send your weekly results to us at deanofstudents@jwcc.edu.

What happens if I do not provide a weekly test?

A: You may be choosing to restrict your access to all in-person classes and on campus activities. You may also not be allowed to come on campus and use the facilities. This would be considered an absence and our regular academic policies and practices would apply. Your course syllabus and the college's engagement policy explain how absences are addressed. There may not be a way to make up what you have missed, and you may not be able to return until you have tested.

Should I get tested if I feel sick?

A: SHIELD testing is intended for those who do not feel sick. It is surveillance testing, which allows JWCC to limit the spread of COVID-19. If you feel sick, please contact your primary care doctor or go to the walk-in clinic.

Are you testing for anything else besides covid?

A: The SHIELD test only targets specific COVID-19 markers. Vials and saliva are safely and permanently destroyed by being placed in biohazard containers, securely stored, and incinerated by hazardous materials personnel.

Does the saliva test detect new variants of COVID-19?

A: Yes

Before testing, what should I do?

A:

1. Refrain from eating, drinking, tooth brushing, mouth washing, or tobacco use for at least 1 hour prior to submitting your saliva sample.
2. To be tested you must create a MySHIELD account, which should be done at the testing site through your mobile device. Staff will provide instructions and will be able to assist in account creation. If you need to create a new account, please show up to the testing site a few minutes early.

Where/when will testing take place?

A:

1. Main Quincy campus: Monday – Thursday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. in room B050
2. Quincy Workforce Development Center: Monday & Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. & from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in room W127 (breakroom)

3. Ag Center: Tuesday & Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the conference room (118)
4. Mt. Sterling campus: Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. & Thursday from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Extension Office
5. Pittsfield (SEC) campus: Tuesday from 10 a.m. to noon and 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the kitchenette next to the community room
 - *These planned testing sites and times are subject to change. Please watch for emails and texts from JWCC.*

What do I need to bring for testing?

A: You must bring some form of identification, such as a driver's license, state id, or your JWCC student id card. You do NOT need to bring your insurance card.

What is the testing process like?

A:

1. Step 1 – Check in at the collection site, where you will deposit your saliva into a vial using a funnel.
2. Step 2 – Screw on the vial's cap and move toward the exit.
3. Step 3 – Place the vial into a rack/bin, sanitize your hands, and leave the collection site. The entire process typically takes less than five minutes.
4. Step 4 – Samples are then transported from all JWCC locations to a SHIELD lab in Springfield by JWCC employees/volunteers.

How do I get my results?

A: Your results will come to your MySHIELD account and to JWCC. JWCC will contact you and follow proper COVID protocol.

Who sees the results?

A: Only you, restricted JWCC personnel, and/or your parent/guardian (If under the age of 18 – which requires a testing consent form to be completed by the parent/guardian prior to testing. The form can be found on JWCC's COVID webpage. Results may be disclosed as permitted by law.

What does my test result mean?

A:

1. Negative: The virus was not detected.
2. Invalid: The sample could not produce appropriate data during testing at the lab. Before your next test, please be sure to refrain from eating, drinking, tooth brushing, mouth washing, or tobacco use for at least 1 hour prior to submitting your saliva sample. For best results, it is recommended to hydrate during the morning and get tested in the afternoon.
3. Positive: The virus was detected.
4. Inconclusive: The sample was able to be processed in the lab, but was not able to definitively provide a detected or not detected result.

5. Rejected: The sample was not able to begin the testing process in the lab. This is likely due to low sample volume, the cap coming off the tube in transport or other damage to the tube, and/or extremely poor sample quality.

What happens if I test positive?

A: JWCC will continue to follow COVID protocol when it comes to positive cases.

Please email deanofstudents@jwcc.edu or call 217-641-4301 for any questions.

Sources:

https://www.uillinois.edu/userfiles/Servers/Server_1240/file/SHIELD/SHIELD_Illinois_Orgs_One_Pager_120820.pdf

https://www.csu.edu/covid19updates/shield_IL_faqs.htm

https://www.csu.edu/covid19updates/shield_IL_faqs.htm