

An ambitious COVID-19 saliva-based voluntary testing program is underway in Twin Rivers Unified. Testing began this week with essential employees who are not displaying symptoms of the coronavirus. With approximately 27,000 Twin Rivers Unified students and staff expected to resume in-person instruction at some point during the 2020-2021 academic year, our top priority is the health and safety of our school community.

“We feel the saliva-based COVID-19 testing kits—approved by the FDA—will play a critical role in helping us expand our safety efforts during the pandemic,” says Dr. Steve Martinez, Superintendent. “It’s a noninvasive test and provides a quick turnaround. The purchase of the kits is to ensure they are available as the District continues developing its comprehensive safety plan specifically in response to the pandemic. The plan encompasses many areas, including contact tracing, PPE, signage and physical distancing. The goal is to have a plan in place that supports continuity of instruction for students and employees when we are able to return to a traditional in-class model of instruction.”

The District has ordered 10,000 saliva test kits, developed by Rutgers University’s RUCDR Infinite Biologics and its partners. We will provide the tests at no cost to our staff. Voluntary sample collection only takes 3-5 minutes and is painless. In addition to rolling out the program to essential workers, Twin Rivers Unified is in the process of identifying high-risk employee groups, which is especially important in minimizing the spread of COVID-19. We continue to work closely with and follow all Sacramento County Public Health and the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) protocols.

“Sacramento County Public Health has reached out to schools to recommend that each has a COVID-19 plan in place prior to bringing teachers and students on campus once in-person learning is approved – and to have a designated contact for COVID-19 testing,” said Sacramento County Health Officer Dr. Olivia Kasirye. “Currently, the County is also finalizing a program for all teachers and other school site staff to access dedicated, no-cost COVID-19 that will start September 14. The Twin Rivers Unified use of the saliva test kits will help to augment our efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19.”

Each school must designate a person for the local health department to contact about COVID-19.

The Coordinator of Health Services or their representative shall be the designated point of contact for communication with Sacramento County Health Department for collaboration and guidance surrounding contact tracing work. Methods of communication shall include email, phone calls and the appropriate forms using all relevant FERPA and HIPPA requirements.

Triggers for Switching to Distance Learning

Instruction if a Full Closure is Required

When a student, teacher or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 and has exposed others at the school, the District will refer to the CDPH Framework for K-12 Schools, and implement the following steps:

- In consultation with the Sacramento County Public Health Department, the District will ensure cleaning and quarantine of exposed persons and whether any additional intervention is warranted, including the length of time necessary, based on the risk level within the specific community as determined by the local public health officer.