



September 24, 2021

Dear Gateway College Preparatory School Families,

I know the past couple of weeks have been difficult for many families with the rising amount of COVID cases due to the highly contagious Delta variant. As a reminder, the **2021-22 Return to In-Person Instruction Plan** can be found [here](#). This document is updated regularly in accordance with CDC recommendations and TEA and local health department guidance.

Due to the amount of positive COVID cases and close contacts, we will be holding a COVID testing clinic this weekend for students in the closed classrooms, all fourth grade classrooms and Mrs. Ramirez's kindergarten class, as well as students identified as close contacts in other grade levels. While this testing event is optional, it is strongly encouraged that parents consider having their student participate if they are part of the aforementioned group. Testing will help us slow the spread by identifying any probable COVID cases before they return to campus. This will help keep our campus open for continued learning.

Rapid testing will take place on **Sunday, September 26th from 2 - 4 pm** at the Gateway College Preparatory School campus in front of the K-8 Learning Center. This will be a drive through event to limit interactions between individuals. Prior to testing, parents will need to complete the pre-registration for their children as described below, have the QR code ready, and sign a permission form.

When you arrive at Gateway College Preparatory School for the testing event, you will pull around to the front of the K-8 Learning Center using only the lane closest to the learning center. Families will need to stay in their vehicles until you receive instructions from a staff member. At the time of testing, students will exit their car and go to the testing area for the nasal swab. Rapid testing results will then be ready in 15 minutes. Families can leave after the nasal swab and will receive an email and/or text to the information entered in the pre-registration with the test results.

We are using Abbott BinaxNOW rapid antigen (not PCR) tests for students and staff of our district and campuses. Unfortunately, family members of students and staff are not eligible for rapid testing through this school program. Below you will find general information about COVID Rapid Testing available at Gateway College Prep, as well as the necessary forms required to have your student tested:

- Rapid tests are used to identify a probable positive case. Students who test positive should follow up with a PCR test to confirm COVID. This will help the campus identify close contacts to the probable cases to intervene quicker to stop the spread on campus.



- For symptomatic staff and students, a negative rapid test does not rule out COVID. A PCR COVID test or an alternative diagnosis from a healthcare provider is still needed before the symptomatic individual is allowed to return to campus.
- Parent permission is needed for any students under the age of 18 prior to being given a COVID rapid test. The parent permission forms are located [here](#).
- All individuals need to pre-register all of their information at: <https://register.txrapidtest.org/> to generate a QR Code which may be scanned by test administrators. Individuals to be tested should take a picture of the QR code generated or print a copy of the QR code to bring to the testing location. Parent permission for students under the age of 18 is also needed PRIOR to being administered a COVID test and is separate from the pre-registration.

We appreciate everyone's continued support and diligence to keep our community safe and healthy!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Carla Silber'.

Carla Silber  
Superintendent/COO  
Orenda Public Charter School District