

Boiling Springs Fire District First Responder COVID-19 Testing Program

Effective: 01/28/2022

INTRODUCTION

The fire district has been entered into a testing program for First Responders in cooperation with SCDHEC. They have provided us with the test kits and two readers for our district to test our own employees in-house reducing the testing burden at established test sites as well as reducing the turn around time for test results. When we conduct an in-house test, the results are returned in typically 15-30 minutes.

PROGRAM

In-house testing will be conducted on High-Risk Exposures as outlined in the Discretionary Amendments of the District's COVID-19 Protocols. If the exposed employee is on days-off and/or not conveniently located near the district to be tested, they can be tested by their doctor or other recognized testing site provided that the results are returned 24 hours prior to the employee's scheduled work period.

In-house testing will be conducted on employees who feel or become ill while at work to determine course of treatment.

In-house testing will be conducted for employees returning to the workplace following an illness or previous positive test.

AUTHORIZED TESTERS

The Assistant Chief/Safety Officer, the three Battalion Chiefs, and one additionally appointed alternate on each shift are designated as the testers for the in-house COVID testing program. They are required to obtain reporting information from each employee prior to or during testing which will be submitted to DHEC with the test results either Negative or Positive.

The Assistant Chief/Safety Officer has an encrypted account established with DHEC for the secure entry of personal and HIPPA protected information. The site in which the account is established is a one-way information depository and information only be accessed by authorized DHEC staff.

TESTING

The tests are nasal swab tests. The tester will insert the tip of the nasal swab approximately 1 inch into the patient's nostril and swab in a circular motion all walls of the nasal passage 5 time in each nostril.

The swab is then placed immediately into the reader and the analysis begins. 15 – 30 minutes later the results are returned to a secure iPhone app on the testers phone for recording and processing with DHEC.