

	<b>TRAVIS COUNTY ESD #5</b> <b>MANCHACA FIRE RESCUE</b> <b>Department Directive</b>	<b>D2021-007</b>
	<b>On-Duty COVID Rapid Testing</b>	Effective: 8/12/2021
		Rescinds: D2020-1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
		From: C. Barron

Effective August 12, 2021, MFR will conduct COVID rapid tests on all personnel reporting for duty. Testing will be with the BinaxNOW 15-minute rapid test. These tests are for department personnel only.

**When to test:**

- At the beginning of every 24-hour shift segment
  - Crews on duty for a 48-hour shift will test again at the beginning of the shift and at the beginning of the second half of the shift. Members staying on duty for overtime shall test at the beginning of the overtime shift as well.
- When reporting for duty.
  - Typically, this will align with the requirement above. However, if a member reports for duty at a time besides the beginning of a 24-hour segment of the shift, they will test when they arrive.
- A member becomes symptomatic during a shift
  - Members that begin to feel ill during the course of a shift should perform a test

**Testing Process:**

- Temperature checks at the beginning of the shift are now considered optional. The primary assessment tool for COVID-19 is the BinaxNOW test.
- All personnel must log into the Preparing Texas web site to take the online training course for using the tests and logging results, logging results are a requirement of the tests being provided to the Department by the State. Manchaca Fire/Rescue does not receive any testing result data from the reports provide to the State.
  - Log into the Preparing Texas website to register for the course (Binax – 200) by indicating you are “Associated with Local Government Agencies,” watch several short videos, and then take the one question test to be able to log into the system for entering the test results. Do not register for other BinaxNOW courses as the 200 course is designed for medically trained personnel.

<https://www.preparingtexas.org/lms/LMSViewCourse.aspx?Course=50>

- Test results may be logged using the individual’s login credentials or the generic login information of:
    - Test log site: <https://app.txrapidtest.org/login>
    - Test Administrator email: admin@tcesd5.org
    - Password: Manchaca665
  - On the following page:
    - Site Type: Fire/EMS
    - Site Assigned: Travis County ESD #5
  - The member will then fill in the form as directed in the training videos
- Testing supplies will be stored in the truck room and all on-coming personnel shall perform a test as they arrive at the station. Personnel should remain in the truck room during the 15-minute test period and perform their shift change briefing while exercising social distancing with off-going crew members. Individuals shall mark their

test card with their initials so they do not get confused with other test cards. Medical gloves shall be worn for the handling of the testing fluid container and social distancing shall be maintained during the testing period.

- Note – do not waste the test fluid, there is only enough in the supplied vial for the tests in that box.
- If the result is negative, the test may be discarded as normal trash, if the test is positive, the card should be disposed using biohazard protocols.

#### **Positive Results:**

- If a member tests positive, they shall don a mask, isolate and leave the station after informing the chain of command. On duty officers shall ensure that the Chiefs are aware of the positive result.
  - The member will contact the Collaborative Care Clinical Consult Line (C4) at 512-978-0405 and schedule a PCR test with Public Safety Wellness to confirm the results
  - Positive cases will be off duty for a minimum of 10 days from the positive test result. If the member is fever free for 72 hours without medication and symptoms are improving to the point of being able to perform job duties, the member can return to work 10 days after the positive test result.
- Off-going personnel may be subject to hold-over to maintain 4-person staffing if an oncoming member tests positive. Operating a 3-person staffing requires a Chief's approval, or when unavoidable, a Chief must be notified.

#### **Exposures:**

With the addition of on-duty rapid tests, our protocol for high-risk exposures (exposure to a positive subject without PPE or a failure in PPE) for both vaccinated and unvaccinated personnel will change to the following:

- Contact C4 at 512-978-0405 to consult on the particulars of the exposure. High risk exposures will be allowed to continue to work if:
  - There are no signs/symptoms of Covid-19, **and**;
  - Every test in the intervals defined above is negative
- If the conditions above are not met, follow the recommendations of C4
- In either case, the chain of command shall be informed of the exposure and status of exposed personnel.