

KEY FACTS ABOUT THE COVIDSHIELD TEST

IS COVIDSHIELD A DIAGNOSTIC TEST?

- Yes, **covidSHIELD** is classified by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) as an **in vitro diagnostic test** for use in a screening or surveillance testing capacity.
- The FDA's **Emergency Use Authorization (EUA)** for covidSHIELD states that it should be used for identification of SARS-CoV-2 RNA and that positive test results are indicative of SARS-CoV-2 infection.
- The EUA authorizes covidSHIELD to be used for people who are displaying symptoms or people who are asymptomatic.
- In a recent clinical study, **covidSHIELD achieved a sensitivity of 96% and a specificity of 99%**, meaning it is a highly accurate test for the presence of SARS-CoV-2 genetic material.

IS COVIDSHIELD A PCR TEST?

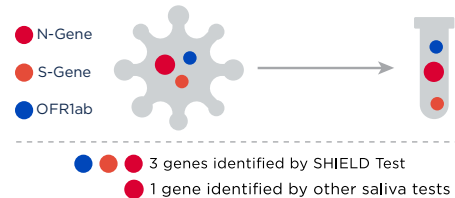
- Yes, **covidSHIELD is a PCR test**, the gold standard of tests for detecting SARS-CoV-2.
- covidSHIELD is a real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (**RT-PCR**) test, as are all PCR tests for SARS-CoV-2.

DOES SHIELD ILLINOIS USE A NUCLEIC ACID AMPLIFICATION TEST (NAAT)?

- Yes, **covidSHIELD**, the test used by SHIELD Illinois, is a **nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT)**, a type of diagnostic test for SARS-CoV-2.
- NAATs for SARS-CoV-2 specifically identify the RNA (ribonucleic acid) sequences that comprise the genetic material of the virus.

HOW DOES THE COVIDSHIELD TEST WORK?

- The **covidSHIELD** test used by SHIELD Illinois targets 3 genes of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.
- Two of the three genes must be present to produce a positive result.
- CovidSHIELD uses reagent from Thermo Fisher, which is 1 of only 3 products that the [FDA highlights as identifying virus variants early](#)
- covidSHIELD can identify people with the virus even before they begin to display symptoms
- covidSHIELD is an effective offensive weapon to identify symptomatic or asymptomatic positive cases and can be complemented by using antigen tests for on-demand rapid testing of symptomatic people.



CAN COVIDSHIELD REDUCE STUDENTS' TIME IN QUARANTINE?

- According to recent CDC guidelines, diagnostic tests like **covidSHIELD can be used to reduce the quarantine time of students** who might have been exposed to SARS-CoV-2.
- The CDC [instructs](#) that "When diagnostic testing resources are sufficient and available, then quarantine can end after Day 7 if a diagnostic specimen tests negative and if no symptoms were reported during daily monitoring."