

May 20, 2022

COVID-19 Testing Update

PFT has received some questions recently about COVID-19 testing, and specifically, whether to use Phamatech for testing. Attached is a fact sheet from the Department of Managed Health Care saying insurance companies must pay for COVID testing. However, we are hearing some insurance companies are refusing to reimburse testing companies for rapid antigen tests, as well as refusing to cover tests unless people have symptoms or exposure. If you experience this, you can appeal to your insurance company. If this does not resolve the issue, you can contact the Dept. of Managed Health Care. But instead, the info below may help avoid this issue.

- For symptoms or exposure to COVID-19
 - o If you go to Phamatech, request a PCR test (not a rapid antigen test). There are many other locations available for testing as well (Walgreens, CVS, Rite Aid or through the [county website](#)).
- For unvaccinated employees or those who decline to state their vaccination status
 - o We have inquired with CFT and they have confirmed that the [CDPH order](#) from August 11, 2021, which requires weekly testing of unvaccinated school workers (or those who decline to state their vaccination status) remains in place. This is a state mandate and is not a negotiable item within the scope of bargaining.
 - o The district emailed employees in this group on Thursday, May 12 and indicated they will no longer be covering the cost of the Rapid Antigen tests for COVID-19.
 - They indicated PCR testing is available at Phamatech, which would be billed through your private insurance. We are hearing insurance may not cover these weekly tests for people without symptoms or exposure, so you may wish to use one of the free testing sites from the district's email.
 - o PFT is working with PUSD to explore other options to support the needs of unvaccinated employees or those who decline to state. However, with about three weeks of school remaining, an alternative is more likely to be in place by the start of school next year. In the meantime, you may wish to use one of the free testing locations in the email sent from PUSD.

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