



# The Accelerated Schools

Accelerated Charter Elementary School (ACES)

The Accelerated School (TAS)

Wallis Annenberg High School (WAHS)

March 26th, 2021

Dear Parents/Legal Guardians:

We look forward to the safe return of students beginning the week of April 12, 2021! As we continue to make sure our staff and students are safe, we have implemented high standard safety protocols, including regular COVID-19 testing. **In order for students to participate in on-campus school instruction on April 12th, a negative COVID-19 test is required.**

Here are some of the most frequently asked questions regarding COVID testing:

**Question: Where can students take a COVID test to be admitted to campus? How frequently will the students be tested?**

**Answer:** The Accelerated Schools (ACES, TAS, WAHS) will perform weekly onsite COVID-19 tests, which require that all students and staff obtain weekly confirmed negative results.

TAS will offer COVID-19 testing during Spring Break on Tuesday, April 6 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Thursday, April 8 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Afterwards, on-site testing will be available on-site Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM at all three school sites beginning on April 16th.

**Question: If I choose not to participate in the TAS COVID testing program and my child is tested by a provider of my choice, who do I present my child's test results to?**

**Answer:** Your child is required to participate in the TAS COVID-19 testing program once your child has been admitted and regularly attends hybrid instruction in person. However, before being admitted, your child may be examined at an external test provider and those test results must be presented to the school office in a sealed envelope dated no later than 1 week before the school start date of April 12th.

Please note that TAS will offer COVID-19 testing during Spring Break on Tuesday, April 6 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Thursday, April 8 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

A confirmed weekly negative COVID test is mandatory for admission to the school campus.

Your child's test results will be treated confidentially with HIPAA Privacy Rule standards and will only be used for proper handling of our contact tracking process.

**Question: How can students register for their onsite COVID test?**

**Answer:** The following HIPAA compliant link can be used by students to sign up for the TAS COVID-19 follow-up test program: <https://hipaa.jotform.com/203294891588167>, you must provide your health insurance information and valid identification for verification. Registration assistance is available onsite.



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**Question: Will students be able to take the COVID test at school during spring break in preparation for their return to in-person instruction on April 12, 2021?**

**Answer:** Yes, we have scheduled tests during spring break on April 6th and 8th from 8 AM to 1 PM. Both ACES and TAS/WAHS will have areas for testing.

Anyone planning to attend school on April 12 is encouraged to take the test during the week of April 5. If you need help with the registration process, please visit the TAS school office and an office staff member can help.

**Question: What type of COVID test does the school provide? How do parents receive their child's COVID test results?**

**Answer:** The Accelerated Schools use noninvasive RT-PCR saliva tests performed by an authorized CLIA lab and a California-certified high-complexity testing lab. The lab will provide the test results within 48 hours and the results will be sent by email directly to your registered email address.



**Questions: What are the protocols when there is a positive test result at home or at school?**

**Answer:** In the case where a positive test result is reported when a person is on campus or on school the premises, the individual will be immediately removed to a designated isolation area on campus and arrangements will be made for the individual to return home as soon as possible. Emergency contacts will be notified accordingly.

If a positive COVID-19 incident occurs, our school nurse will conduct an investigation for contact tracing purposes. In addition, as required, we will notify the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health of the positive outcome. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health then determines whether an investigation on the school campus is necessary.

According to AB 685, the school will also notify all employees and families who were on the premises in the same workplace within the infection period to report possible exposure to COVID-19.

**Question: How long do COVID-19 tests taken on the TAS campus take?**



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**Answer:** COVID tests on campus should take no more than 15 minutes, at most.

**Question: What are the protocols if a student/staff member becomes ill on the school campus?**

**Answer:** If a student or staff member has a fever or appears sick, they will not be admitted to the campus. Parents must come and pick them up from school. The staff member will go home. If the student appears sick while in the classroom, the student will be quarantined at a designated location and the parents will be called to pick up the child.

Please closely monitor your child's health and consult your health care provider as appropriate. We strongly encourage your child to take the COVID-19 test if he or she has the following symptoms:

- Fever (temperature above 100.4 F)
- Chills (uncontrollable body tremors)
- Cough that's new or getting worse.
- Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing.
- Recent decline in sense of smell or taste

**Question: How will I be notified if there are COVID outbreaks at TAS?**

**Answer:** TAS is required to report any positive COVID-19 case to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. TAS is also required to notify families if there was possible exposure to a positive COVID-19 student or employee. If there are more than 3 cases of transmissions on a school campus within a 14-day period, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health will initiate an investigation that may lead to mandatory closure.

**TAS has not had any case transmission to date** even though we regularly have 50 staff members working on site for the past 8 months. This is attributed to staff members following safety protocols, regular mandatory COVID-19 testing, and the unique nature of ACES/TAS/WAHS outdoor facilities.

**Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Spring Break Travel Update:**

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) issued a guideline that those traveling out of state during spring break should be quarantined for 10 days after traveling out of state or exposed to an airport. The reason for this guideline is that many other states have lifted restrictions above the minimum guidelines of the state of California. If your child is planning to travel out of state, keep in mind that he or she will need to be quarantined, which means he won't be able to join the campus for 10 days after his/her trip.

If you have any additional questions about our COVID surveillance testing program, please contact our team at [COVIDTesting@accelerated.org](mailto:COVIDTesting@accelerated.org).

Sincerely,  
Accelerated Charter Elementary School  
The Accelerated School  
Wallis Annenberg High School