



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
January 19, 2021

Judson ISD Partners with Community Labs to Provide COVID-19 Testing to Staff and Students *Adding another layer of COVID-19 safety protocols to help keep students, families and staff safe*

Judson ISD has been working hard to make the best decision for students, families, and staff by constantly monitoring the status of COVID cases, creating different options for families, and adjusting protocols as necessary to keep the community safe during these unprecedented times. Beginning this week, the District has added another layer of safety, beyond masking and distancing, by collaborating with Community Labs to offer COVID-19 testing as an option to all staff and students (in-person and virtual), free of charge. The Community Labs screening process uses a PCR test – the FDA gold standard in COVID-19 testing – and is 95% effective in detecting asymptomatic, silent spreaders of the virus.

“In order for us to keep our schools open and safe, COVID testing plays a key role in being able to accomplish that. Judson ISD is very fortunate to begin this incredible partnership with Community Labs, who will provide ‘assurance testing’ for all of our staff and students on a voluntary basis,” Superintendent Dr. Jeanette Ball said. “This opportunity not only provides a valuable and free resource for our District, but the data we gather from the testing will give us more information to make better decisions and provide more options for our families. We hope that will bring a sense of comfort and confidence to our community for in-person learning and ensure we are doing our part to slow the spread.”

Community Labs, a San Antonio non-profit organization, helps make schools and workplaces safer through early identification of COVID-19 positive, asymptomatic people. This is done by providing 24-hour test results, scale, accuracy and a less invasive, self-administered test by swabbing the front of the nostril. The testing programs will help to establish COVID-19 Safety Zones and a pathway for schools to reopen, people to return to work and communities to recover.

Community Labs will send an experienced testing team to facilitate the process. Testing is voluntary and only requires the completion of a consent form. Testing will occur each week for any staff or student, whether in-person or virtual, on 30 Judson ISD campuses.

“Community Labs provides asymptomatic COVID-19 tests on more than 200 campuses a week in the San Antonio area. Our data shows that assurance testing coupled with schools’ strict adherence to safety protocols can make schools the safest and best place for a child to learn,” said J. Bruce Bugg, co-founder and board member of Community Labs. “We formed Community Labs as a nonprofit organization and have made opening schools safely our priority. Through assurance testing, we can get children back in the classroom, allowing families to confidently return to work and our economy to re-open.”

Funding is provided by grants from local government entities through the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and by private donors. By partnering with Community Labs, Judson ISD is implementing an additional layer of safety protocols that provides the convenience of onsite, self-administered nasal swabbing with accurate test results provided within 24 hours. This assurance testing allows individuals with positive results to quarantine, while others can safely return to school.



Media Opportunity:

Thursday, January 21, 2021 from 10:30 am – 11:30 am

Elof Elementary School

Mr. Scott Wilson, Principal
6335 Beech Trail
Converse, TX 78109

About Judson ISD

Judson Independent School District is a Pre-K through 12th grade public school district in the San Antonio area. Prior to its current form, the district was known as Judson Rural School District No. 8. The rural district was created on June 25, 1958, by the Bexar County School Board and combined the existing districts of Converse, Kirby and Selma. The new district was named after Moses Campbell Judson. Today, Judson ISD serves over 23,000 students within the incorporated cities of Converse, Kirby, Live Oak, San Antonio, Selma, and Universal City. Judson ISD produces excellence throughout all campuses and builds strong connections with the community. The district earned a B rating from the Texas Education Agency and is constantly working on innovative ways to enhance the learning for its students. Judson ISD believes in providing a strong foundation for early learners by offering full day Pre-Kindergarten programs beginning at 3 years old. Being a district of choice provides Judson families to customize their own educational experiences through the multitude of programs the District has to offer. For more information, visit www.judsonisd.org

Press Release Contact: Dr. Nicole Taguinod

Phone: 210-945-5410

Email: ntaguinod@judsonisd.org

About Community Labs, LLC

Community Labs, LLC, identifies asymptomatic silent spreaders of COVID-19 by providing 24-hour test results, scale, accuracy, and a less invasive, self-administered test that swabs the front of the nostril. With this assurance testing strategy, schools and businesses can create COVID-19 Safety Zones and a pathway for schools to reopen, people to return to work and communities to recover. Community Labs is a nonprofit organization based in San Antonio, Texas, co-founded by Graham Weston, former CEO and Chairman of Rackspace Technology and Founder of the 80|20 Foundation; J. Bruce Bugg Jr., Chairman and Trustee of The Tobin Endowment; and J. Tullos Wells, Managing Director of The Kronkosky Charitable Foundation. For more information, visit CommunityLabs.org.

Community Labs Contact: Mary Ullmann Japhet

Phone: 210-414-9030

Email: mary@japhet-media.com
