



**For Immediate Release**

November 13, 2020

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**Pre-K 4 SA Strengthens COVID-19 Safety Protocols  
with Powerful New Enhancements**

*Innovative partnerships with Community Labs and San Antonio Food Bank  
help keep children, families, and staff safe*

**SAN ANTONIO** — Pre-K 4 SA has followed a strict and comprehensive set of COVID-19 protocols put into place prior to the return of families this fall. Living up to its commitment to ensure the health and safety of its children, families and staff by continuing to add the most powerful and convenient tools to its approach, Pre-K 4 SA has joined forces with Community Labs to proactively test its staff each week for COVID-19. In addition, Pre-K 4 SA is leveraging its partnership with the San Antonio Food Bank to provide free, Kinsa smart thermometers to its current and alumni families.

These innovative partnerships are additional tools in Pre-K 4 SA's strategic approach to the COVID-19 suppression cycle made even more critical by the onset of cold and flu season.

Community Labs helps make schools and workplaces safer through early identification of COVID-19 positive, asymptomatic people. By partnering with Community Labs, Pre-K 4 SA is implementing a unique methodology 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. Community Labs also has the capacity to scale to tens of thousands of tests a day as it conducts broad-based testing on a frequent and consistent basis.

"Pre-K 4 SA is pleased to leverage our partnerships with Metro Health and the Food Bank to make these new tools available to our staff and families," Pre-K 4 SA CEO Sarah Baray said. "We are conducting assurance testing as part of ongoing strategy to suppress the COVID-19 virus. And, with the support of our families using the Kinsa smart thermometers, we believe we are taking another step to help prevent additional viruses such as colds, strep and flu from entering the buildings too."

Pre-K 4 SA is working with Metro Health to make Community Labs testing available free-of-charge to its staff at each of the four Education Centers and its replication site at Gardendale Elementary School. Community Labs will send a testing team to each Pre-K 4 SA site on Fridays. The on-site testing is voluntary and is offered as a convenience to Pre-K 4 SA staff to support the organization's commitment to keep people safe.

"Community Labs is happy to support Pre-K 4 SA's efforts to make their learning environment even more safe for students, faculty and staff through assurance testing,"

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Community Labs Co-Founder and Chairman and Trustee of The Tobin Endowment J. Bruce Bugg Jr. said. "Safely reopening schools has been a driving force for the three co-founders of Community Labs – Graham Weston and his 80/20 Foundation, J. Tullos Wells, Managing Director of the Kronkosky Charitable Foundation, and myself. Having a safe environment that inspires more students to return to the classroom improves their learning outcomes and gives the adults in their lives the opportunity to return to work. Our Community Labs strategy can really make a difference in fighting the pandemic."

Kinsa is an award-winning thermometer that tracks fever or symptoms and gives guidance on how to feel better quickly. Daily fever screenings at home helps suppress the spread of viruses and stops illness from coming to school. According to a survey conducted by Kinsa across more than 1,000 schools nationwide, 40% of school families do not have access to a working thermometer. The use of a smart thermometer tracks temperatures for the entire household, access appropriate healthcare early, and helps schools, workplaces and communities curb the spread of illness through the Kinsa app.

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#### **About Pre-K 4 SA:**

Pre-K 4 SA is a comprehensive early childhood initiative aimed at changing the education and workforce trajectory of San Antonio in one generation. Pre-K 4 SA offers full-day pre-kindergarten for 4-year-olds living in the City of San Antonio. Pre-K 4 SA is free for qualifying students and also accepts tuition-paying students. The school day begins at 7:45 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m. Extended hours are available at no additional charge from 7:15 to 8 a.m., and from 3 to 6 p.m. for working families. Breakfast, lunch and two snacks are included and free transportation is available to all students. Pre-K 4 SA has four Education Centers located throughout the city: North Education Center, 3635 Medical Dr.; South Education Center, 7031 S. New Braunfels Ave.; East Education Center, 5230 Eisenhower Rd.; and West Education Center, 1235 Enrique M. Barrera Memorial Parkway. The Gardendale Early Learning Program powered by Pre-K 4 SA is the first replication site and was made possible through a partnership with Edgewood Independent School District. This program creates greater capacity for high-quality early education with both pre-k and kindergarten classrooms. The Pre-K 4 SA Professional Learning program provides pre-kindergarten through third grade educators in San Antonio with complementary continuing education to support best practice instruction to help every child in San Antonio excel. The Pre-K 4 SA Competitive Grants program provides more than \$4 million in funding annually to increase quality and access in early childhood programs throughout San Antonio. Visit [www.prek4sa.com](http://www.prek4sa.com) for more information.

#### **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 test by swabbing the front of the nostril. With Community Labs, schools and business 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. For more information, visit [CommunityLabs.org](http://CommunityLabs.org).

#### **About The San Antonio Food Bank**

The San Antonio Food Bank is a 501c3 nonprofit organization providing millions of pounds of food to more than 500 charitable organizations in Southwest Texas serving those in need. In addition to food distribution, the San Antonio Food Bank provides numerous programs that not only solve the immediate problems of hunger, but help individuals and families gain long-term food security. For more information about the San Antonio Food Bank, visit our website at [www.safoodbank.org](http://www.safoodbank.org).