

NYS Micro-cluster Zone Strategy
COVID School-Based Student Testing
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) – 12/4/2020

1. What does the test consist of?

The *BinaxNOW* rapid test is best described as a non-invasive (shallow) nostril swab. Please view this short [VIDEO](#) to gain a better understanding of how the test works.

2. Who is paying for the test kits?

The test kits will be provided at no cost by the NYS Department of Health. While technically not "free," the cost burden is not on the District.

3. Who will be performing the actual swab?

The district has partnered with ATC Healthcare Services, an agency that will provide licensed practical nurses (LPNs) and medical assistants who, in addition to the district's own registered nurses (RNs), have been trained to conduct testing in accordance with guidelines established by the NYS Department of Health and the Suffolk County Department of Health Services.

4. How will parents obtain testing results?

Results will be ready within approximately 15 minutes of taking the test. Parents will be notified immediately if their child tests positive. Negative results will be communicated as promptly as possible.

5. How will results be kept and my child's HIPAA rights be protected?

The District will adhere to all privacy laws, as it does with all other matters involving our students, faculty, and staff.

6. If one does not consent, can the child still attend school in-person?

Yes, for now, but only assuming there are enough members of the in-person school community willing to be tested. As indicated in the letter from the Superintendent of Schools, testing requirements for orange and red zones have recently changed. Should the requirements change further and/or should the zone designation remain for an extended period, this may impact whether or not any or all students may still attend in person.

7. My child(ren) are remote learners. Do they need to be tested?

No.

8. Where will testing occur?

Should it be required, testing will occur at designated schools.

9. Will parents be notified if their child is to be tested?

Every effort will be made to finalize and communicate the testing schedule in advance, but this may not always be practicable.

10. Can parents be present while their child is being tested?

We expect that a 20 percent testing requirement in a yellow zone, for example, would require up to 100 tests per day over a two-week period. While we understand the desire to be with your child as he/she is tested, please understand that this will not be possible during school hours. (We will attempt to schedule additional testing times outside of school hours to accommodate parents who wish to be present with their children.)

11. Can I have my child tested by a health care professional on the outside and have it count toward the required district percentage?

Yes, as long as the test is administered and the result submitted during the designated testing date window.

12. How can I help prepare my young child for the test?

Please reference the attached “talking points” for some ideas in this regard.

13. Can I revoke consent after the fact?

Yes, you can revoke consent in writing to your building principal at any time.

This document will be updated continuously upon receipt of additional information!