



Important Surveillance Testing Information

September 17, 2021

Dear Irvington School Community,

The Irvington UFSD is committed to providing safe and healthy school communities in which our students will grow and learn and our employees will educate and inspire. The District launched this school year with a comprehensive Reopening Plan that outlines a tiered system of COVID-19 mitigation requirements. In addition to the strategies outlined in the plan and as was done in the 2020-21 school year, the District will facilitate a surveillance testing program.

Surveillance Testing Program Overview:

The surveillance testing program for the 2021-22 school year will differ from last year's in its scope, frequency, and administration. The 2021-22 surveillance testing program will:

- Be performed in partnership with the Westchester County Department of Health (WCDOH), Quadrant Biosciences, and Westchester Medical Center;
- Rather than a rapid antigen test, the Clarifi saliva-based PCR test will be administered;
- Testing will be performed in school, during school hours;
- The test will be self-administered, which is easily done by children of all ages;
- Westchester Medical Center staff will oversee all testing;
- 20% of all consenting students and staff members will be tested on a weekly basis;
- Participation in surveillance testing is optional for students and vaccinated staff, but is **strongly recommended**;
- Unvaccinated staff members will be tested weekly (approximately 95%+ of staff are currently vaccinated);
- Test results will be available within 24-48 hours;
- Families will be able to obtain their personal results through a secure portal; and
- All positive cases will be reported to families and the WCDOH for contact tracing purposes.

Anticipated Timeline for Testing Program Implementation:

September 17th - 23rd: Consent and registration (three-step, online process)

September 30th - October 1st: The District intends to perform gateway or baseline testing for all consenting students and staff and unvaccinated staff members.

October 13th: First round of surveillance testing and testing for unvaccinated staff members.

Test Details:

The [Clarifi COVID-19 test](#) is currently the most sensitive saliva test on the market and has been administered over 2 million times to college and K-12 students in New York State. You will also be pleased to know that the Clarifi COVID-19 test involves a very simple and painless saliva swab that all students can easily self-administer, as shown in this [short video](#).

The Testing Procedure:

Testing will take place weekly in all four Irvington schools. The District is currently working with Westchester County and Westchester Medical Center on a schedule for testing of students and staff.

To participate in the testing program, you must first create student profiles at: app.Clarifi-COVID-19.com. When completing this registration, please check the option indicating that you do not have health insurance and do not provide your personal health insurance information, as the testing is being paid for by Westchester County. (Note: You can register multiple student profiles under each account).

Consent to Participate:

It is necessary for all families to grant consent for their children to participate in the testing program. In doing so, consent for testing and permission to share COVID-19 testing results with the WCDOH must be granted by completing the Google Forms below:

[Consent for PCR Saliva Testing](#)

[Authorization to Disclose COVID-19 Test Results](#)

Once all samples have been collected for the day, Westchester Medical Center will ship them to Quadrant Bioscience's laboratory to be analyzed. Results will be returned within 24-48 hours and will be available for you to view by logging back into app.Clarifi-COVID-19.com.

I greatly appreciate our shared commitment to maintaining healthy school environments. I strongly urge you to do your part by enrolling your child to participate in the surveillance testing program. Whether one is vaccinated or not, the test results will make a difference and will identify cases that would otherwise go undetected, putting others at risk. This is another example of where we, as a community, can come together to support one another. Please consider doing your part and enable your child to participate in this critical surveillance testing program.

Thank you for your continued support!

Appreciatively,

Kris

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