
WESTCHESTER COUNTY SCHOOLS COVID-19 SCREENING TESTING PROGRAM



FUNDING AND TESTING PARTNERS

- Funded by the CDC's ELC Reopening Schools award
- Westchester County Department of Health is overseeing the program. WCDH is contracting with:
 - Quadrant Biosciences to provide test kits and laboratory analysis
 - Westchester Medical Center to provide staffing for your school's testing events

WHAT IS THE GOAL OF THE PROGRAM?

- To provide regular COVID-19 screening testing to catch asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic cases of COVID-19 in schools
- This will help to reduce transmission of COVID-19 in schools
- Reducing transmission will help keep students, faculty and staff safe AND help to keep schools OPEN for learning

IS PARTICIPATING IN THE TESTING PROGRAM MANDATORY?

- No. This is a voluntary program and consent from a parent or guardian is required.
- The program is **OPT-IN**. If you do not want your student(s) to participate in the program, no action is required and your student(s) will **NOT** be tested.

WHAT KIND OF TESTS WILL BE USED?

Saliva-based samples

- Painless, non-invasive cheek swab
- Sample is self-collected, even by children as young as 5
- Sample takes less than 20 seconds to collect

PCR test

- Gold standard of testing
- Highly accurate

HOW WILL TESTS BE CONDUCTED?

- Samples are **SELF-COLLECTED** by the student in school on their designated testing day
- Staff from Westchester Medical Center and your student's school will be overseeing the testing events
 - Together, they will help bring students to the testing space, check them in, guide them through sample collection, and ensure they get back to class
 - The testing process from check-in to sample submission takes less than 5 minutes, so disruption to learning time is minimal

HOW ARE SAMPLES ANALYZED AND HOW LONG DO RESULTS TAKE?

Pooled analysis for efficiency

- 12 samples are pooled together and tested
- Results from negative pools are available in 12-24 hours

Everyone in a negative pool is presumed negative

Samples from a positive pool will be re-tested individually to determine who in the pool is positive

- Using the original saliva sample— no need to provide another
- Individual results are available 12-24 hours after a positive pool is found
- Positive individuals will be placed on isolation to prevent the spread of COVID-19
- Negative individuals will resume normal activities

WHO WILL BE TESTED AND WHEN?

- Baseline testing (first testing event at the school)
 - All consenting students, teachers, and staff can be tested regardless of vaccination status
- Weekly testing (after baseline testing through start of December break)
 - School will receive a number of WEEKLY tests equal to a percentage of their total school population (initially 20%, but subject to change)
 - School can use those tests strategically to test a sample of their consenting population
 - Example: unvaccinated teachers, unvaccinated students, or a random sample of the population
 - Depending on participation rates in your school and your school's testing strategy, your student(s) may be tested every week OR they may be tested periodically (once every few weeks)

Your student's school will provide more information about specific dates of testing as they are scheduled.

HOW DO I ENROLL MY STUDENT?

Enrolling takes less than 10 minutes. Once you enroll and provide consent for your student(s), they are enrolled for the length of the program unless you decide to revoke consent in writing

- Complete the program consent form (provided by school)
- Complete the HIPAA release form (provided by school)
- Complete the Quadrant registration process through the HIPAA-complaint Quadrant platform
 - See instructions provided by school

HOW WILL I GET MY STUDENT'S RESULTS?

- You will receive an email notification when your student has test results available. You can then log in to the Quadrant portal to view the results.
- If your student was part of a negative pool, the results will say 'presumed negative'
- If your student was part of a positive pool, your school will be in touch with you while you await the automatic, follow-up individual test results
 - Your student will need to isolate as a precaution until their individual results are ready (12-24 hours)
 - You will be notified by email when the individual results are ready. You can then log in to the Quadrant portal to view the results. Negative individuals can resume normal activities while positive individuals will be placed on isolation.

QUESTIONS?

- For questions specific to testing at your student's school:
 - Contact your school's COVID-19 point person
- For general questions about the testing program, contact:
 - Rosie Finizio, the County Testing Program Parent Liaison at (914) 995-2501 or RFinizio@westchestergov.com