



Important COVID Updates - PARENTAL ACTION REQUIRED

November 25, 2020

Dear Irvington School Community,

As you know, the precautions that we must take in our schools to provide for the health and safety of our students and staff are of paramount importance. With that said, the District continues to make all the necessary plans to prepare for a Yellow Zone designation, which requires testing of 20% of the students and staff who report to school to learn or to work on-site.

What are the 20% Testing Details?

The District has developed a plan to administer the required testing of students and staff should we ever be designated as a Yellow Zone. [The New York Micro-Cluster Strategy](#) requires that schools or districts in a Yellow Zone must test 20% of students and staff reporting to school, to learn or to work.

- A random sampling will be developed to comply with NYS requirements.
- Students and staff who are 100% remote do not have to be tested.
- All testing will be administered by a licensed nurse or health care provider.
- Health and safety precautions will be utilized by nurses including gloves, face masks, face shields and protective clothing.
- Testing will be facilitated through a drive-through approach to support social distancing.

What type of COVID-19 test will be used?

- Based on the New York Micro-Cluster Strategy, a rapid, nasal swab test will be conducted. This test is an antigen test - not a PCR test.
- We have been advised by the Westchester County Department of Health that the BinaxNow Rapid Antigen Test will be provided to each district that is required to test.
- Individuals testing positive will need to have a follow-up PCR test performed to determine accuracy of the initial, rapid test results. This follow-up test will not be administered by the school district. Individuals will have to seek external testing locations for which information will be provided.

What can we as parents do to help keep the District open for in-person learning?

In order for the District to remain open for in-person learning, 20% of students participating in learning on-site have to be tested. To prepare for the very real possibility of testing, we now request that all parents whose children participate in in-person learning complete a required consent form. We ask that parents [complete this consent form as soon as possible](#). By completing the consent form now, the District can be prepared to administer the tests once they are delivered. When testing is scheduled to begin, those who are identified for the

random testing will be notified prior to it occurring.

Holiday Travel Reminders:

Please do not travel outside of our immediate region; wear a face mask and social distance when you are outside of your home; stay home when feeling ill and seek medical attention; and wash or sanitize your hands frequently. Together, we can make a difference and help to keep the Irvington schools open for our students to attend in-person learning.

If you do travel outside of the area, please be advised that if you visit an area that is on the NYS quarantine list, you must follow the NYSDOH guidelines by completing one of the two options available:

Three days prior to departure from your destination, you must have a negative PCR COVID-19 test performed AND then four days after returning to New York, you must have a second negative PCR test. Evidence of the two negative test results must be submitted to the school health office.

OR

Quarantine for 14 days upon return to New York Students would be required to participate in distance learning throughout this period of quarantine.

Your transparency regarding your travel plans is greatly appreciated and will help to provide a safe environment for all of our students and staff.

While these are difficult times and unlike anything we've experienced before, I am confident that if we continue to cooperate with all of the NYSDOH guidelines, we can minimize the risk to our community. It is essential that we, as a community, continue to support one another and know that our shared sacrifice and concern for the greater good will certainly make a difference.

I hope you have a healthy and enjoyable Thanksgiving.

Very truly yours,

Kris

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