



Mr. Thomas J. Colabufo
Superintendent

November 1, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Throughout the pandemic, the New York State Health Department has required all NYS schools to send students/staff exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms home until they have received a COVID-19 negative test result from an approved laboratory or an alternate diagnosis from a healthcare provider. All NYS schools must comply with this NYSDOH return to school/work regulation for any students/staff that have COVID-19 symptoms. After several months of trying to secure rapid COVID-19 tests for our symptomatic students/staff, we finally were able to get thousands of BinaxNOW Antigen rapid tests from the Oswego County Health Department.

We have included the following parent consent form that will allow you to provide the school district with the permission to test your child ONLY when your child is exhibiting [COVID-19 symptoms](#). This consent form is completely optional for parents/guardians and can be completed and submitted by using the following link, <https://forms.gle/8Uv4K1YoeGgzA2Va9>

We have had numerous requests from parents asking if we would eventually be able to provide rapid COVID-19 testing at school for those parents that provide their consent so that they would not have to leave work to pick their child up from school and bring their child to a COVID-19 testing site in our County. **We cannot and will not test any child without the written or verbal consent from the child's parent/guardian.**

I did not want to tell parents/guardians that these nasal swab tests are not the original intrusive nasal swabs that go deep in the nose unless I experienced it for myself. The following link is an actual demonstration of one of our school nurses administering the COVID-19 BinaxNOW test on me, <https://youtu.be/kOydcNxE5o4>. These rapid tests will only be done on students and staff that are exhibiting [COVID-19 symptoms](#) and **parents/guardians must provide the District with their permission. There is no need to call your child's nurse, principal, or myself, to tell us that you do not give your permission, because unless we receive your permission to test your child when he or she has COVID-19 symptoms, we will not test your child.** There will be **no random testing** of any students or staff with these tests. If your child is at home when he/she first exhibits any of the COVID-19 symptoms, please keep your child home and call your child's school nurse and she will schedule a rapid COVID-19 test. When it comes to reducing the overall disruption that COVID-19 and the State regulations cause on a daily basis for students and their parents, providing families with this opportunity will greatly reduce that disruption. Providing parents/guardians with the opportunity to have their symptomatic child tested at school by the school nurse is just one more choice for the parents/guardians. Prior to securing thousands of these BinaxNOW COVID-19 tests, parents/guardians with a symptomatic child would have to pick their child up at school and either go to a COVID-19 testing site or to a healthcare provider for an alternate diagnosis in order to comply with the NYSDOH requirements.

We continue to have parents inquire about the possibility of the local Health Department running another COVID-19 vaccination clinic like they did last year at our high school, now that it appears that 5-11 year olds will soon be officially eligible for the vaccine. **Based on the results from the October 25 parent interest survey we sent all parents, seen here, (<https://forms.gle/yhtbbABQwqJgKZoE6>), we have a significant number of elementary students whose parents would like us to host a vaccination clinic in District.** Similar to our ability to test symptomatic students in our schools with parent permission, deciding whether or not to have your child vaccinated is still 100% up to each parent, as it is your parental choice to make. If you have a child 5-11 years old and would like the District to host a vaccination clinic but have not taken the survey yet, you can still do so. Thank you and have a great day.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Colabufo
Superintendent