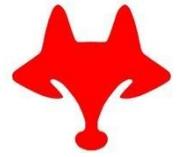




BEDFORD CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Inspiring and Challenging Our Students



Dr. Joel Adelberg
Superintendent of Schools
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Dear BCSD Community,

Our district is planning and preparing for mandatory COVID testing at our schools in anticipating any potential determinations by New York State of any part of our district as a yellow, orange, or red zone.

Please reference this FAQ document pertaining to the New York State guidelines on testing and schools and our plan for possible testing in the BCSD. We will update this information as frequently as necessary.

In order for your child(ren) to be tested we will need parental consent. We are asking all families who will have children attending school in person or hybrid to sign the attached consent form and submit electronically for our files. [Student COVID-19 Testing Consent Form](#).

Sincerely,
Joel Adelberg

Dr. Joel Adelberg
Superintendent of Schools



COVID-19 Testing FAQ's

How are communities identified by micro-clusters by New York State?

The New York State Department of Health issued new guidance, December 4, 2020, identifying zones and the requirement that schools provide testing for those attending in-person or hybrid.

On December 10, Governor Cuomo announced new metrics by which micro-cluster focus zones will be determined to help control COVID-19 spread and protect hospital capacity.

Yellow Zone: A geographic area will be eligible to enter a Yellow Zone if it has a 3 percent positivity rate (7-day average) over the past 10 days and is in the top 10 percent in the state for hospital admissions per capita over the past week and is experiencing week-over-week growth in daily admissions.

Orange Zone: A geographic area will be eligible to enter an Orange Zone if it has a 4 percent positivity rate (7-day average) over the last 10 days and it is located in a region that has reached 85 percent hospital capacity. Alternatively, a geographic area may also become an Orange Zone if the State Department of Health determines the region's rate of hospital admissions is unacceptably high and a zone designation is appropriate to control the rate of growth.

Red Zone: A red zone will be implemented when a region, after the cancellation of elective procedures and a 50 percent increase in hospital capacity, is 21 days away from reaching 90 percent hospital capacity on the current 7-day growth rate.

In summary, the Governor's announcement also looks at hospital capacity as Yellow, Orange and Red zones too. A micro-cluster could be identified as yellow, orange or red. "Yellow" would mean that schools within that area must test 20% of those students and staff over the course of two weeks. Students and staff may be tested at 10% intervals weekly. "Orange" would mean that schools within that area must test 20% of those students and staff who attend school in-person or hybrid over the course of a month. If "red," the number to be tested in that identified school zone over the course of a month becomes 30%. We must meet the testing mandate for our schools to remain open.

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/12/guidanceforschoolsinredandorangezones.pdf>

Will students and teachers be tested randomly throughout the school year? How will this work?

Your child may be tested throughout the school year in accordance with state and county health department guidelines. If you consent, your child may be selected for testing depending on our designation.

How many people in a school building will be tested?

The number of students and staff to be tested will depend on the size of the school, but will consist of 20% or 30% of a school's in-person population based on the zone designation.



Who will be testing my child?

BCSD School Nurses will be administering the tests to students tested on site. Nurses will have appropriate PPE and will participate in necessary training for the administration of these tests.

Can parents accompany their children to be tested?

Parents are encouraged to accompany their younger children. Parents will be notified prior to any testing so that any who wish to be present could be.

How long is the testing process expected to take?

The test will use a “short swab” (similar to a Q-tip) that is inserted into the front part of the nose for five to ten seconds. Once the specimen is collected, results will be provided in 15 minutes. The name of the test being used will be the [Abbott BinaxNow Antigen test](#). The New York state Department of Health through the Westchester County Department of Health will be providing these tests to the Bedford Central Schools.

How and when will we receive testing results, and what will happen if my child tests positive?

After 15 minutes, you and your child will receive the results. If your child tests positive, you will be directed to contact your child’s medical provider to review the test results and discuss what you should do next. You should keep your child at home if this test produces a positive result. As with any medical test, there is the potential for incorrect test results such as “false negatives” in people who have COVID-19 as well as “false positives” in people who do not have COVID-19. If your child tests negative but has symptoms of COVID-19 or if you have concerns about your child’s exposure to COVID-19, you should call your child’s medical provider and keep your child at home.

When/how will I know if my child has been chosen for testing?

Students and staff will be randomly tested. Once the students are identified, parents will be given notification about the upcoming test a week before the test date.

How can I help prepare my child for the test (especially for younger children)?

You should talk to your child about testing. We encourage you to tell them that the doctors, nurses, and other health professionals at school need to make sure they are healthy, so they are going to do a test for the virus by rubbing a small cotton swab inside the front part of their nose. Remind your child that it’s okay that the school performs this test and that it’s quick, safe, and gentle.

If my child is selected for random testing at my school, can I have the test done with my private doctor instead?

Yes, your child can be tested using your medical provider. However, the negative test results need to be supplied to the school nurse on or before the date of the scheduled school testing for that school.



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