



March 2, 2021

Dear BCSD Community,

In December, we shared information with the community that we were preparing for mandatory COVID testing at our schools in anticipation of any potential designation by New York State of any part of our district as a yellow, orange, or red zone. The good news is that our district was not determined to be a micro-cluster by NYSDOH and so the need for mandatory testing never occurred.

We have been able, however, to obtain COVID tests for the purpose of surveillance testing. The tests have been provided to our district by the NYSDOH and under the supervision of the Westchester County Department of Health. While not required, we have the ability to begin testing a percentage of our students, selected at random and only among those whose parents have given written consent. The value of surveillance testing is that we would be able to determine that our schools are safe for our students and staff. This will be especially important as we continue to explore bringing more of our students back to school five days a week.

Please reference the updated FAQ document below pertaining to the New York State guidelines and our plan for surveillance testing in the BCSD. The FAQ addresses important information about advance parental notification, procedures for test administration, and the expectation that parents who consent be present during the test.

Many parents have already submitted consent forms back in December. If you submitted consent forms at that time, there is no need to submit again. For those who did not submit consent forms in December and wish to do so now, here is the form. In order for your child(ren) to be tested we will need parental consent. [Student COVID-19 Testing Consent Form](#). While we believe that there is value in conducting these tests, consent to have your child(ren) tested is not a condition for attending school in-person.

Sincerely,
Joel Adelberg

Dr. Joel Adelberg
Superintendent of Schools



COVID-19 Testing FAQ's

Will students 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. We will only test students with prior parental consent and agreement to test will have no bearing on a child's ability to attend school in-person.

How many people in a school building will be tested?

The number of students to be tested will depend on the size of the school, but we will begin this process by testing 10% of a school's in-person population over the course of a month. The percentage is subject to change.

Who will be testing my child?

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

Can parents accompany their children to be tested?

We ask that parents accompany their children. Parents will be notified prior to any testing.

When would testing occur?

Our plan is to conduct testing on Monday mornings for students in Hybrid 1 and for students currently attending 5 days a week. Testing will be conducted on Wednesday or Thursday mornings for students currently attending during Hybrid 2. By conducting the tests in the mornings following a weekend or multiple days of remote learning, a positive result will not require us to quarantine other students or staff.

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 has provided 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 will be randomly tested. Once the students are identified, parents will be given notification about the upcoming test several days before the test date. No students will be randomly selected and tested on the same date and without appropriate notification and consent of parents.

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.