PS 34 Elementary

Mandatory Covid-19 Testing Meeting – Alain Beugoms
Principal I.A.

December 2, 2020
4:00 pm
MAYOR’S PRESS CONFERENCE on Sunday, November 29, 2020
Agenda

- Re-Opening & Covid-19 Testing
- Q & A – Post your questions in the chat.
- Polish Translation – Ms. Oszczypala
- Spanish Translation – Ms. Mendoza
Re-Opening For In-Person Learning
When can my child return to in-person learning?

Students in Grades Pre-K through Grade 5 will return to in-person learning beginning the week of Monday, December 7.
Re-Opening of School Building for In-Person Learning

• Applies to students in blended learning, who have already chosen to learn in the school building part of the week, and from home the rest of the week.

• Students who chose fully remote learning prior to building closures will continue to learn remotely full time.

• Applies to students in blended learning, including those who selected blended learning during the recent opt-in period.
Travel Advisory

Students who have recently traveled outside of New York to a place on the State’s travel advisory list must quarantine for 14 days.

You also have the option of testing out of quarantine based on the State’s guidelines: https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory. Students should continue to complete the health questionnaire daily.
School Re-Opening For Blended Learning - A / B Schedule - Week of December 7

A / B Schedule Resumes next week
Mandatory Covid-19 Random Testing In Schools
What do I need to do to return to my school building?

In order for your child to return to in-person learning, you must submit the consent form for in-school COVID19 testing by the first day your child returns to their school building.
When/how will I know if my child has been chosen for testing?

You will be notified by your school about two days before your school is scheduled to be tested. By consenting, your child may be included in the random sample for the testing day.

If your child is tested, you will be notified after school that day.
Weekly Testing

Testing will happen weekly for a random selection of staff and students in your child’s school. Given the ongoing fight against a citywide resurgence of COVID-19, this mandatory weekly testing for COVID-19 is a crucial part of our plan to keep all schools safe.

Any student in grade 1 or higher returning to school buildings must submit a consent form for COVID-19 testing in school by their first day back in school buildings.

- Any student in grade 1 or higher returning to school buildings must submit a consent form for COVID-19 testing in school by their first day back. 3K, Pre-K, and Kindergarten students are excluded from random testing.
About 20% of students will be tested weekly

We have approximately 150-160 students in any given cohort A/B.

That calculates to about 30 students tested weekly.
TESTING PROCESS

Who will perform the test?

A trained individual will conduct the test. Testing will be provided by, among others, school nurses, City health staff, and our partners: SOMOS, Bio Reference Laboratory, and Fulgent Genetics.
Can parents accompany their children to be tested?

Unfortunately, no. To maintain the classroom pods and reduce the risk of COVID-19 being introduced into the building, parents will not be able to accompany their children during the test.

We understand that this may feel scary, particularly for younger children. Our trained staff will ensure the testing is performed swiftly, gently, and in a positive environment for all children.
Video

A video showing the testing process is available at schools.nyc.gov/covidtesting.
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.
Testing Experience at PS 34

Testing is conducted in the cafeteria. Movable barriers section the space exclusively for testing. Air purifiers are present.

There are two tables set up for Test and Trace. The child sits at a chair at each of the two tables.

Your child is never alone with testers. The administration, school aides, guidance counselor, are present and facilitating the logistics and supporting teachers and students. PS 34 staff is always present when your child is tested.

Most of the time, teachers are present with the entire class in a waiting area. The teachers allay students’ concerns and often receive testing themselves. In some cases, children selected in a class may be brought to the cafeteria by school aides, counselor, and PS 34 Staff.

If a child expresses distress or crying prior to testing, we are allowed to indicate to Test and Trace Personnel that the child is not testing that day.

The swab is short and used in both nostrils. The test is very brief. Children have shared that it is ticklish feeling in the nose, sometimes their eyes water (not from crying), and almost always report that they feel okay after the test. We ask them.
What test will be used? Is it painful?

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.

We understand that some students or staff may be nervous about testing, but the test is not painful and should not be uncomfortable. The test should take no more than two minutes from start to finish.
How long is the testing process expected to take?

The cotton swab is in the nose for five to ten seconds, so the entire testing process takes only minutes.
How do I submit consent?

Submitting consent to have your child tested for COVID-19 in school is quick and easy. Even if you have already submitted consent, we ask you to do so again to ensure your student has the latest consent form on file.

There are two easy ways to submit: 1) Fill out the form online using a New York City Schools Account (NYCSA) at mystudent.nyc. If you already have a NYCSA account linked to your student(s): Log in, click your student’s name, click “Manage Account,” and then when a dropdown menu appears, click “Consent Forms.” Read the page, and then choose the consent option at the end for your student.
Welcome NYC Parent or Guardian!

⚠️ ALERT: Due to elevated rates of COVID-19 transmission, all NYC public school buildings will be closed effective November 19th. All students will learn remotely full-time until further notice. Please visit schools.nyc.gov/coronavirus to learn more.

Email

Password

☐ I have read and agree to the Privacy Policy.

SIGN IN

Forgot your password?

CREATE ACCOUNT

Learn More
How do I submit consent for testing?

- If you do not already have a NYCSA account: You can create one right away! If you have an account creation code from your school, you can create a full account in approximately five minutes, and then provide consent as described above.

If you do not have an account creation code from your school, you can still provide your consent right away by clicking “Manage Consent” under “COVID-19 Testing” and filling out your and your child’s information to provide consent. 2) Print and sign the attached form and bring it to your child’s school on the first day they are back in the school building. A printable PDF file is available in ten languages at schools.nyc.gov/covidtesting.
NYC DOE CONSENT FORM FOR COVID-19 TESTING

What is this form?
We are seeking your consent to test your child for COVID-19 infection. The New York City Department of Education (NYC DOE), working with NYC Health + Hospitals and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, has partnered with laboratory and other providers to test NYC DOE students, teachers, and staff members for COVID-19 infection.

How often would you test my child?
We are arranging for two laboratory and provider partners to test every school at least once every 7 days, and to test some of the students and staff. If you consent, your child may be tested for COVID-19 once, twice, or more times throughout the school year, in accordance with state and city mandates, such as weekly testing in schools in Yellow Zones, or twice if your child exhibits one or more symptoms of COVID-19.

What is the test?
If you consent, your child will receive a free diagnostic test for the COVID-19 virus, which uses a nasal swab to look for the virus. The attached letter provides more information about the types of tests that may be used, including specimens for testing (e.g., nasal swabs). These tests have been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for COVID-19 testing.

When will I hear if my child tested positive?
If your child’s test results are positive, please contact your child’s doctor immediately to review the test results and discuss any action you should take. You should keep your child at home and inform your child’s school. If your child’s test results are negative, NYC DOE may not be notified of your child’s infection. Tests sometimes produce incorrect negative results (called “false negatives”) if people who have COVID-19 do not have symptoms of COVID-19, or if you have concerns about your child’s exposure to COVID-19, you should call your child’s doctor. If you need help finding a doctor, call the NYC Health Hotline.

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENT/GUARDIAN/ADULT STUDENT

NYC DOE Health + Hospitals

NYC Department of Health + Mental Hygiene

NYC Department of Education
Can my child receive an exemption from weekly random testing?

Exemptions will only be granted in certain limited cases:

- For students who need a medical exemption, due to a health condition that would make it unsafe to undergo testing (e.g., facial trauma, nasal surgery), you will be able to submit a separate form for consideration. This form must be signed by a physician and you must submit medical documentation from a health care provider.

- For students with disabilities who cannot be safely tested in school due to the nature of their disability, you will be able to submit a separate request for an exemption.

- The exemption forms will be available in English on Monday, November 30 at schools.nyc.gov/covidtesting. Translations will be available shortly thereafter.
REQUEST FOR MEDICAL EXEMPTION FROM COVID-19 STUDENT TESTING

The New York City Department of Education (NYC DOE), working with NYC Health + Hospitals and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, has partnered with laboratories and other providers to test NYC DOE students, teachers, and staff members for COVID-19 infection.

Parent or guardian: There may be rare circumstances in which a health/medical condition makes COVID-19 testing not possible. If you believe your child should be exempt from COVID-19 testing due to such a health/medical condition, please complete this form (with your child's healthcare provider's documentation and signature) and submit it to your child's school principal. If your request is approved, your child will be exempt from COVID-19 testing.

Child/Student Information
Name: ___________________________ School ID/OSIS #: ___________________________ Date of Birth: ___________________________

Parent/Guardian Information
Name: ___________________________ Email: ___________________________ Phone number: ___________________________
Address: ___________________________

Best way to contact you? [ ] Phone [ ] Email

Reason for Exemption Request
Please select a reason for the exemption:
[ ] Nasal deformity [ ] Nasal surgery [ ] Facial trauma

[ ] Other, please explain:

Please attach medical documentation from a health care provider regarding the exemption request.

Health care provider information
Name: ___________________________ Email: ___________________________ Phone number: ___________________________
Signature: ___________________________

To Be Completed by Principal or Program Director
Name: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________
Principal comments: ___________________________
REQUEST FOR DISABILITY-BASED EXEMPTION FROM COVID-19 TESTING FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The New York City Department of Education (NYC DOE), working with NYC Health + Hospitals and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, has partnered with laboratories and other providers to test NYC DOE students, teachers, and staff members for COVID-19 infection.

Parent or guardian: If your child has an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and you would like to request an exemption from COVID-19 testing due to your child’s documented disability, please describe the reason below and submit this completed form to your child’s school principal or their designee. You may include additional information, including supporting documentation as appropriate, that you believe should be considered during the review of your exemption request – though you are not required to do so.

Child/Student Information
Name: ___________________________ School ID/OSIS #: __________ Date of Birth: __________

Parent/Guardian Information
Name: ___________________________ Email: ___________________________ Phone number: __________
Address: ___________________________

Best way to contact you? [ ] Phone [ ] Email

Disability-based Reason for Request
Please describe why the student cannot be tested for COVID-19 in school due to the nature of their documented disability:

To Be Completed by Health Director, Borough Liaison, or Administrator for Special Education

ACTION: [ ] Approved [ ] Denied

Health Director/Borough Liaison/Administrator for Special Education: ___________________________
Date: ___________________________

Schools in districts 1-32 should send the completed form to their Administrator for Special Education for exemption approval. In District 75, schools should send the completed form to their Borough Liaison and the District 75 Health Director for exemption approval.
What happens if I don’t submit consent?

You must submit consent by the day that your child returns to your school building; this is the due date, and we need all students to participate.

If your child comes to school on their first day back for in-person instruction without a consent form on file, principals and school staff will contact you to obtain consent.

After that, students without consent forms on file, who do not have a medical or disability-based exemption submitted, must be moved to fully remote instruction. More information on exemptions will be provided by your child’s school principal this week.
How long is my consent in effect?

Your consent will remain in effect until September 30, 2021 unless you withdraw consent before then. [this was in the FAQs published prior to mandatory testing]
How long will I be out of class or away from my job?

The testing will not take long. We do not expect any staff member to be out of class for more than 15-30 minutes total from the time they are notified until the test is completed.
My child is not comfortable communicating in English. Will interpreters be available to explain the process to students who are multilingual learners? If so, how will this be arranged?

Every testing partner will have policies and procedures for how they provide services to individuals in their preferred language. Please communicate with your principal in advance if you have specific concerns.
If I get tested elsewhere, can I share those results and be released from in-school random testing?

No. To have an accurate understanding of each school population, testing for this program must be performed on a single day, in the school building, and by one provider. At present, outside tests will not be counted in the 4 monthly survey. Note that if you are tested at an outside location and test positive, you must stay home and report your absence to your principal.
When will results be available?

Results will be available within 48-72 hours after the sample is taken.
When will I receive my results?

In most instances, you will receive results no more than 48 hours after the specimen arrives at the laboratory. You will be able to log into an online portal to access your results. If you test positive, you will also receive a call from the provider who completed the testing.
You must stay home from school or work and report your absence and you should also contact your physician. Additionally, the Test & Trace Corps will contact you to provide resources, connections to care if you require support, and to discuss how to keep yourself and other household members safe.

The school will also be notified to ensure steps are taken to protect other members of the school community. The Test & Trace Corps will monitor your household for symptoms for 10 to 14 days.
Will overall results from testing across a school be shared with the school community

Yes, but names or any other identifying information of the children or staff who test positive will not be released.
Will the DOE/City ensure that my personal information remains confidential?

Any information related to in-school testing is confidential and protected under the New York City Health Code and other local, state, and federal laws. We will store information securely, and only individuals who are legally authorized to have access to test results or other personal information will have such access.
Where and how will test results be stored?

Results will be sent to two places: to the State and City Departments of Health, where all communicable disease results are sent; and to the Test & Trace Corps and associated City staff to facilitate closing of classrooms or school buildings and to support contact tracing as necessary to ensure we protect all students, staff, and family members. These entities operate under strict privacy and confidentiality protocols.
Q&A?

Thank You!