



Dear Colleagues,

November 12, 2020

I hope you and your loved ones remain safe and healthy.

I wanted to share an important update on COVID-19 testing in your school. As you may be aware, the State launched a cluster action initiative to mitigate higher than average COVID-19 transmission in communities around the state. Per the State's zone designations, your school is determined to be located in a geographic area identified as a "precautionary zone" ("yellow zone") as announced by the State on Wednesday, November 11. Schools in these zones are safe to be open while COVID-19 transmission rates are being carefully monitored in these areas. You can find a map of the yellow zone, as well as other specially designated zones, [here](#).

Because your school is located in a precautionary/yellow zone, your school building will remain open, but will have mandatory weekly COVID-19 testing for a random sample of students and staff as required the State for schools located in these zones. The transmission data for COVID-19 in the area around your school will continue to be closely monitored; should any change in operating status be needed, we will let you know immediately.

Keeping your building open depends on random COVID-19 testing of our students and staff as required by the State, which means that we need a consent form from you providing permission for COVID-19 testing.

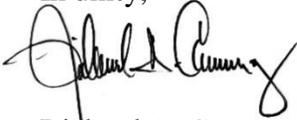
I thank the many of you who have already submitted your consent for COVID-19 testing. For those who haven't, it is now even easier for staff to provide consent directly through the online daily Health Screen Questionnaire, available at <https://healthscreening.schools.nyc>. This is the same online platform most of you are already using to report your daily at-home screening results before entering school buildings. Once you log in, you'll find the consent tab in the upper left-hand corner of your screen. Click on the consent tab and answer "yes" to submit your consent to be randomly tested. We are encouraging staff to use the online Health Screen Questionnaire to provide consent, though you can also complete this [consent form](#) and submit to your school's payroll secretary or other principal designee.

The test is easy, quick, and safe, and will be administered to a randomly generated selection of students in grades 1-12 and staff each week. More than 20,000 staff and students have already been tested across the city. A "swab" (similar to a Q-tip) will be inserted into the front part of the nose for five to ten seconds. Later this school year, it is possible that tests will be administered by collecting a small amount of saliva (spit).

We know you likely have questions, and we encourage you to visit schools.nyc.gov/covidtesting for more information. Additionally, you can find staff-specific Frequently Asked Questions posted on the [InfoHub](#). Please do not hesitate to continue reaching out to your principal at any time with any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your service.

In unity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard A. Carranza". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "C".

Richard A. Carranza
Chancellor, New York City Department of Education