



Commonly Asked Questions and Resources - Weekly COVID-19 Testing

(School Reopening 12/7/20)

Weekly COVID-19 Testing: All schools will have 20% of students and staff randomly tested every week. The information below will assist school leaders as schools reopen the week of Monday, December 7, 2020.

Context: To ensure our students, staff, and school community safely return to our school buildings, all students and staff must submit the consent form for in-school COVID-19 testing by Monday, December 7th, 2020 or the first day the student or staff reports to the school building. Testing will occur weekly starting Monday, December 7, 2020.

Weekly COVID-19 Testing Commonly Asked Questions

1. **Who is required to submit consent to in-school COVID-19 testing?**

Students in blended learning who are returning to school as of Monday, December 7, 2020, and all in-person school staff are required to submit consent for in-school COVID testing, except for 3K, PreK and Kindergarten students.

2. **Are students and staff permitted to submit their negative COVID-19 test results from an outside testing provider in lieu of providing consent?**

Students and staff are not permitted to submit their negative COVID-19 test results from an outside provider in lieu of in-school COVID-19 testing.

3. **What should schools do when students show up who have not consented?**

- On the first day a student returns for in-person instruction and does not have consent, the school should contact the family and ensure that they provide consent that day. Schools should inform families that if a student for whom consent or a pending exemption is not on file by the next in-person instruction day,, parents will be contacted and asked to pick up student.
- If a student returns to in-person instruction and still does not have consent, the school should use the blue card and/or other resources to contact parents for pick-up.
- Schools should identify and use a non-instructional space or room in the school that is not the isolation room for students who arrive and have not provided consent. This space should allow for social distancing and follow other health and safety guidance.
- Schools should make sure that there is a staffing plan in place for supervision of the non-instructional room. Students should not be mixed with students in a different learning pod/scheduling cadence to make sure that social distancing practices are maintained.
- Students who arrive and who do not have consent on file should be able to participate in remote learning and access other resources, including grab and go meals, to ensure they are participating for the day if they cannot return home. Such students' attendance should be marked according to remote learning attendance policies.
- Students may not be dismissed without a parent or guardian present and must remain at school. When parent/guardian arrives, school should inform them that student did not attend in-person instruction and that in order to do so, consent for testing must be on file.
- Schools should backpack this letter with any student who arrives without consent.
- If student continues to return to school without having provided consent, schools should use their attendance escalation plan to address this and reach out to their BCO Attendance Manager.

4. What should schools do if staff does not submit consent?

UFT staff who do not provide consent within one week of returning to the school building will be placed on Leave Without Pay. Guidance regarding other staff members who do not consent will be forthcoming.

5. Are there medical exemptions for students?

Yes. There are medical exemptions available to all students who meet the criteria for exemption. There are disability exemptions for students with IEPs. Please see the link below for medical exceptions and accommodations.

6. Are there exemptions for staff?

Staff may request exemptions from in-school COVID-19 testing using the existing reasonable accommodation process. Please see the link below for Coronavirus Staff Update.

7. Are we testing 3K, PreK and Kindergarten?

NO.

8. Are we testing staff that support 3K, Pre-K, and Kindergarten staff?

Yes.

Weekly COVID-19 Hyperlinked Documents (12/3/20)

UPDATED Weekly COVID-19 Guidance

Student Consent: All students in grades 1-12 must provide consent for testing by their first scheduled in-person learning day. Families can submit consent using NYCSA or this updated [paper form](#). Students who do not submit consent will be transitioned to remote learning.

Staff Consent: All staff must provide consent by the first day they report to their school building. Staff can submit consent using the daily Health Questionnaire or using this [paper form](#).

Student Medical Exemptions and Accommodations: <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-year-20-21/return-to-school-2020/health-and-safety/covid-19-testing#jump-to-heading-24764991219>

Student Disability Exemption Form: [Student Disability Exemption Form](#)

Situation Room: The Situation Room remains the schools' point of contact for any possible cases of COVID-19 in school buildings and will continue to guide schools through any COVID-19 cases occurring in their buildings. Situation Room 212-393-2780.

[Coronavirus Staff Update page](#) for more information about the DOE's COVID-19 related policies for employees.