

December 3, 2020

Dear District 75 Staff,

In an effort to be responsive to the unique needs of our students, we will be taking a slightly different approach to in-school testing for our students in D75. The teams who administer staff testing in D75 are the same teams who administer student and staff testing in D1-32. However, our nurses will administer tests for students in D75 in addition to external teams. Our school nurses know our students well and understand their unique needs and they will administer the vast majority of student tests. We will only rely on external providers when absolutely necessary based on nurse capacity. If a family requests that a nurse test their student, please make sure they are tested by the school nurse and not by the external team. As you may know, random testing will be occurring on a weekly basis.

Please note:

1. The testing policy has been finalized for D75. All students will be required to submit one of the following three forms: consent to be tested, a medical exemption, or a disability based exemption, in order to return to blended learning. Students with a disability-based exemption will need to be tested outside of school.

A. Approved requests for disability-based exemptions will exempt a student from in-school testing; however, exempted students will still be required to get tested outside of school. If a student is selected for in-school testing but has an approved disability exemption on file, the student will be required to get tested outside of school (e.g., at the student's doctor or a city testing site) within seven days of notice. Exempted students will also be required to bring test results into school upon completion.

B. Testing is free at Health and Hospital sites

2. No student should be tested if they become uncomfortable and refuse the test; in these instances, schools will follow up with families to determine next steps. If a student cannot be safely tested in school, they may be eligible for a medical or disability-based exemption.

3. No student should be tested if the school has not obtained parental consent, but failure to provide parental consent or an approved exemption will result in students moving to full-time remote learning.

4. Medical professionals have advised that based on the needs of some of our students, the most medically appropriate method for administering the test involves having parents present. Because we cannot allow families to accompany their students into our school buildings due to the risk of communal spread, in instances when it is determined that the only way to safely administer the test is with parents present we will ask families to submit a request for a disability- based exemption from COVID-19 testing form.

Thank you for supporting this important process to ensure the ongoing health and safety of all stakeholders within our school buildings. If you have any questions regarding this process, please discuss them with your administrative team.

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Superintendent