



## WEST SENECA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

### COVID-19 TESTING FAQs

As certain areas of New York State continue to see an increase in COVID-19 cases, NYS Governor Cuomo has implemented the cluster action initiative to address COVID-19 hot spots. This initiative divides clusters and the areas around the clusters into three categories: red zone (specific cluster), orange zone (warning zone), and yellow zone (precautionary zone). Each area has specific metrics and requirements as outlined by New York State. Under the authority of a NYS Executive Order, ***schools in orange and red zones must adhere to strict health guidelines, including testing of in-person students, faculty and staff in order to return to in-person instruction.*** Please use the following link for our [Student COVID-19 Consent Form](#).

<p><b>What test is being used and who is administering the test?</b> The BINAX NOW nasal swab test is the COVID-19 test that will be used for all students, faculty and staff. The tests will be administered by our District school nurses. The test will be administered to only those who have provided consent. We want students to be as comfortable as possible during testing and will not “force” any students to get tested if they are unwilling despite having consent.</p>	<p><b>What if I prefer to have my child tested off site?</b> Staff and students may be tested off-site by your personal health care provider or any testing site in our area. In order for those tests to be considered as part of our required percentage, results need to be provided to your school nurse within a specified time of the required testing. If it is your intention to use an off -site testing facility, please communicate with your school nurse.</p>	<p><b>Where will my child be tested?</b> Each school will have a process and procedure for testing in a confidential location. Some students and staff may be tested through the school health office during the day. The District will have optional evening hours at a district site for parents to attend with their child. All information will be confidential and only the necessary school personnel will be informed to complete the necessary documentation for NYSDOH and Erie County DOH.</p>
<p><b>Is there a video showing how the test will be conducted?</b> Please use the following link to a demonstration of the BINAX NOW nasal swab test: <a href="#">BINAX NOW nasal test</a>.</p>	<p><b>What is the process for selecting students and staff for testing?</b> A confidential listing of all students and staff that have provided consent will be used. A randomization process will be used to select individuals to be tested each week at each school. If you are randomly selected for testing, you will be notified.</p>	<p><b>How will I be notified of the test results?</b> Our school nurses will contact individuals if they test positive in a timely manner. The District must inform the Erie County Department of Health and the NYSDOH as outlined in the prescribed plan. The Erie County Department of Health will determine the necessary requirements and inform the person. If someone tests negative, they will also be informed.</p>

<p><b>If I consent to testing, how often will my child be tested?</b>  Your child will be part of a rotating testing schedule. We will be using a random sample of students who have provided consent for testing to establish the identified students to be tested each week. Parents/Guardians will be notified when your child will be tested. The link to the testing form is <a href="#">Student COVID-19 Consent Form</a>.</p>	<p><b>Can I be with my child when he/she gets tested?</b>  We have established evening testing hours that will allow parents/guardians to be present with their child for the testing. A testing process and a schedule will be forthcoming.</p>	<p><b>We have heard that the BINAX Nasal swab test is not reliable. If a person tests positive, will another test be required for confirmation?</b>  The school district nurses will contact each individual that tests positive. The person will be directed to consult with their primary medical provider for additional information and medical direction .</p>
<p><b>If I do not consent to testing, will my child be required to participate in a fully remote model?</b>  No, your child may continue to be part of the hybrid learning model as long as we have enough volunteers. Meeting the required specified percentages based upon the NYS microcluster status will be necessary to maintain in-person instruction.</p>	<p><b>Can parents/family members get tested too?</b>  Unfortunately at this time, schools cannot test community members. The testing is for district staff and students only.</p>	<p><b>Even with all the testing that may occur, will there be the chance that the school and/or District will be required to switch to remote learning?</b>  The NYS guidance indicates that if the random sampling generates 9 or more positive cases in any school, then the school will be required to close.</p>
<p><b>What will happen if the school and /or District does not meet the testing requirements in a geographic area designated as an orange or red zone?</b>  If schools do not meet the reopening requirements for in-person instruction set forth in the NYS guidance, then the school must remain in remote/distance learning until such time as the requirements are met.</p>	<p><b>Will Pool Testing be used in schools?</b>  The school district is not using pool testing. Each test that is conducted will be individually conducted and results will be based on each individual's test.</p>	<p><b>We live within the district but my children attend a private/parochial school. Can my children be tested through the District?</b>  No, the testing is for those working and attending district schools.</p>
<p><b>How much instructional time will students miss the day they are tested?</b>  We will do our best to minimize students' time outside of the classroom and are targeting non-instructional times when possible. We are approximating the total time out of the classroom will be no more than 10-15 minutes.</p>	<p><b>If teachers and staff are being tested, how will instruction proceed if they are waiting to be tested?</b>  All efforts will be made to minimize the impact testing has on instruction. Teachers and staff will be tested at an agreed upon time to minimize the disruption of instruction.</p>	<p><b>Is there a cost associated with testing at school?</b>  No. There is no cost for individuals to participate in testing.</p>

<p><b>What will be done with the results of the individual tests?</b></p> <p>Test results will be securely submitted to the Electronic Clinical Laboratory Reporting System (ECLRS) which provides laboratories that serve New York State with a single electronic system for secure and rapid transmission of reportable disease information to the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), county health departments and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYCDOHMH).</p>	<p><b>What if I have additional questions?</b></p> <p>Please contact your child's building principal and/or your school nurse.</p>	<p><b>What measures are taken during testing to prevent contamination?</b></p> <p>School personnel will wear appropriate PPE during testing. This may include a mask, face shield, PPE gown, and gloves. Students will wear masks, maintain the mask over their mouth and face as much as possible, maintain physical distancing, and will sanitize hands before and after testing.</p>
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