

FACT SHEET REGARDING IN-SCHOOL TESTING

- **Who will get tested?**

A random 20% sample of the in-person faculty, staff and students ages 5 and up will be tested.

- **How do I submit a consent form?**

The school needs an original copy of all consent forms on file. Faxed or scanned copies of consent forms cannot be accepted. Parents are encouraged to drop off the consent forms or to send the forms in with the student prior to the testing date. It is imperative the information be complete and accurate.

- **Who is conducting the tests?**

Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of New York have engaged the services of *SOMOS Community Care* to conduct the required bi-weekly random testing in our school. All teams work directly under the supervision of a New York State licensed Medical provider. Each person/team member that is to perform any work in a school shall be vetted to ensure they meet the NYS requirement, have appropriate certification for performing COVID test swabbing, and cleared through a nationwide criminal background check.

- **Where will testing take place in the building?**

Testing will be done in a safe, secure, isolated, well-ventilated space in our building which will be deep cleaned and misted after testing is completed.

- **What type of test is it?**

It is a short swab test which only swabs the nares (front part of the nasal passage). It is NOT a rapid test. While the consent form notes the use of the longer swab, **only the short swab will be used on our students.** The consent form is a standard document provided by SOMOS.

- **How will the testing be administered?**

Schools in a yellow zone are required by New York State to conduct bi-weekly testing. However, if the testing results show our positivity rate among the 20% random sample of in-person students ages 5 and up, staff, and faculty is lower than the yellow zone's current seven-day positivity rate, testing will not continue at our school.

- **What if my insurance company says that they will not cover the test unless it is ordered by a doctor or as a result of close contact with someone who tested positive?**

COVID testing is government subsidized and must be paid to any certified laboratory that performs the test. Additionally, there is no application of copays or deductibles and no balance billing for COVID testing. The Medical Director of SOMOS is the ordering provider on every lab test.

- **What is the cost for families for conducting the tests?**

There will be no out of pocket expense for you. Under the federal government's CARES Act, your medical insurance will cover this testing with zero co-payment. In order to quickly carry out the testing, easily and free, be sure to include your insurance information on the consent form. If you don't have insurance, your child is still eligible for testing at no cost to you. Visit the Catholic Schools Website: www.CatholicSchoolsNY.org COVID Page for additional information.

- **Why is testing starting in kindergarten when the public schools are starting in first grade?**

The testing that occurred in the New York City Public Schools was not based on the yellow zone designation. Once an area is considered a yellow zone, the school must test a random 20% sample of in person faculty, staff, and students ages 5 and up in order to stay open for in-person instruction. The distinction is not by grade, but rather by age.

- **Who will escort my child to the testing location?**

A teacher or staff member will escort the children to the testing area.

- **Can the principal or teacher sit with the student during the actual testing procedure?**

The testing area is considered a restricted area and must remain with only authorized personnel with full PPE. The principal or a school official will need to be in full PPE in order to be present in the room for some of the testing. We thank Governor Cuomo for providing the PPE at no expense to allow this to happen.

- **Can a parent/guardian be present at the time of testing?**

Unfortunately, due to the regulations set forth by the reopening plan, we are still not allowed to have any parents or non-essential or unauthorized visitors in the building; this even applies for the testing days. This is for the safety of the school, the students and staff.

- **Can I take my child to an outside medical provider to have the child tested in lieu of the in-school testing?**

Unfortunately, given the reporting that New York State is requiring, this is not a possibility at this time.

- **Can I call my child out “sick” or go remote on testing days and return the following day?**

No. Unfortunately, if you do not submit a consent form, your child will not be allowed to attend in-person instruction until a consent form is signed. If no consent form is signed, the child will need to be fully remote until we revisit the situation at the end of quarter 2.

- **Will I know prior to testing that my child has been selected? How will I know if my child has been tested?**

By signing the consent form, you are allowing your child to be tested; you will not be notified that your child has been selected. If your child is tested, we will let you know they were tested and provide the information on how and when you will receive the results.

- **When will I know the results of my child’s test?**

A representative from SOMOS Results team shall contact patients with the results of the test within 48 hours maximally but within 24 hours is expected.