

ORANGE ZONE FACT SHEET REGARDING IN-SCHOOL TESTING

- **What happens when a school enters the orange zone?**

By Governor's executive order, the school must close for four days for deep cleaning and to test students, faculty, and staff before reopening. Home-based learning will continue while the physical building is closed. All faculty, student, and staff must be tested and receive a negative test result before reentering the school. Afterward, the school will have 25% testing of the in-person school community on a 7 calendar-day cycle, including pre-K students for the duration of the orange zone status. The 25% testing must be unique each week to the in-person population.

- **Who will get tested?**

ALL of the in-person faculty, staff and students will be tested and must receive a negative test result before returning to school.

- **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. By providing consent, families can be called with results.

- **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 an orange zone are required by New York State to conduct bi-weekly testing. After the first week of testing 100% of the in-person population, a random 25% of the faculty, students, and staff will be tested weekly.

- **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.

- **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 the 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.

- **How do I access my child's results?**

1. Visit: <https://my.wellcom.us/register>
2. Create an account and complete the registration
3. Check your account for results in 48 hours. If results are not yet available, check back regularly.
4. If you have any questions regarding accessing the portal please call Empire City Laboratories at 718-788-3840. Please dial Extension: 6. If you have any concerns regarding your results, please contact your healthcare provider.

You may also access patient portal on: <https://www.empirecitylabs.com/>.

- **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.