

Frequently Asked Questions about the Voluntary COVID-19 Surveillance Rapid Testing FAQs

Why are we doing this? We see surveillance testing as just adding another layer to our health and safety plan this year. It will provide us with information about our in-school population and it will help identify asymptomatic people who have COVID-19. We don't see testing as some foolproof way to keep schools open, it is just providing us with more information to assist us with our efforts.

Is the state or health department requiring us to do this? At this time the state or health department is not requiring us to do this test. We received tests from the state at no cost to the district and the county health department is assisting us with the testing but it is not a requirement. That helps us keep the program voluntary for participants.

Why are you using these tests (AVID Diagnostic Binax NOW)? These are the tests that the New York Department of Health has given us to use and they have been used throughout the state for rapid surveillance testing.

Will you just pull my child out of class to test them? No, we will not do that. We want parents to be with their child when tested. The testing center will be set up on Sundays and Wednesdays so parents can be with their child.

How do we get the results and what do we do if the result is positive? We will provide the result of the test approximately 15 minutes after testing and will bring the result to your car. If the result is positive, you will need to follow up with your child's doctor for consultation.

Is this the test that goes way up your nose? No it is not. The test is very gentle and involves some quick swabs of both nostrils.

Do I have to do this? No you do not. The program is voluntary. We appreciate people who are willing to participate and it provides us with information that helps us with our reopening efforts but it is voluntary.