

BLIND BROOK-RYE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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COLIN BYRNE, D.P.S.
INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

January 13, 2022

Volunteer COVID Testing

Dear Members of the Blind Brook Community,

We have spent time this week reviewing the processes for the weekly COVID testing program that has been in place since last year. I want to share some information on where we are with the program with you as well as let you know what to expect in the next few weeks.

Before discussing this, I need to correct an impression that many people received from a previous email that I sent. My comments seem to have left the impression on some that we have not been doing any testing of students or staff this year. There has been COVID testing happening with some staff members throughout the start of the school year. Not everyone who volunteered has been included but testing has been happening.

That being said, I do recognize that the volunteer testing for students has not been happening. We are working to remedy this now. We have contacted Mirimus to review the entire process for submitting samples for testing. We have also gathered the names of students and staff who have requested to be part of the weekly testing program. Thank you to all of those who submitted the forms to be part of this program!

We are not going to be able to expand the testing pool to include all volunteers until next week. The pool of testing candidates needs to be submitted a week in advance in order for the school district to receive the testing supplies for everyone. The file for next week was submitted today. We are expecting to receive all of the supplies next Tuesday.

Since we have a large number of volunteers, we would normally break the pool up into smaller groups and test separate groups each week. However, since the program has not included many who wanted to participate, I have submitted all staff and students who have signed up for the program to be tested next week. If we can continue to test this large group weekly we will do so, otherwise we will set up weekly groups and let everyone know which group they are in.

I will be sending out an email to the parents of all students and staff members so that you know that you have been included as part of this testing pool. If you have submitted paperwork for testing but do not receive a confirmation email by 3:00 p.m. tomorrow, please let me know. Another email will follow at the start of next week that will explain the process of picking up and dropping off samples as well as tips for taking the test.

Tests are typically sent out on Friday. Since the saliva test is a PCR test, it typically takes a few days for results to come back. We will try to inform everyone of positive or negative results as soon as possible.

Anyone who has not signed up for the weekly COVID testing but would like to should fill out the form [LINKED HERE](#) and return it to your school nurse. Once we have your form we will include you in the next possible testing pool.

I look forward to having this great program fully back in place! More information on COVID and COVID protocols will be coming soon.

Sincerely,

Dr. Colin M. Byrne
Interim Superintendent of School