



CHEEKTOWAGA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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12/17/20

Dear Cheektowaga Central School District Parents,

As you know, the Cheektowaga Central School District has been approved as a LSL (Limited Service Laboratory) by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) for the purposes of performing the COVID 19 testing.

Beginning on Monday, January 4, 2020 when school resumes to session in the Hybrid Model, the testing program will begin and monthly will test both staff and students whose families have provided consent to the district to do so. During the week on days when the district is "in session", nurses will test between 8-12 students per day (Monday, Tuesday & Thursday, Friday). The tests will be performed in each clinic within the three respective buildings: Union East, Middle and High School. This is what your child may expect to occur:

- Cheektowaga is only required to test 20% of its students monthly. Therefore, only a small number of students will be tested during the week when we are in session (approximately 8-12 per day: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday, Friday). Your child will only be tested if in the random sample, 1 time per month or may not be tested if they have not been selected during that month period.
- Each family will receive a call prior to the testing indicating your child is in the random sample to be tested that month.
- Each family will also receive a call following the testing that indicates the results of your child's test. **If positive**, your child will be isolated immediately in the clinic and you will be called to pick up your child. From that point, you must follow the quarantine protocols as well as the district Return to School protocols, already in place. **If your child is negative**, your child will return to class. All results are reported confidentially to the NYSDOH as is required by law.

- The test involves a swabbing of the both nasal cavities with a very short Q-tip. The test is considered “minimally invasive” meaning it is quick, painless and some have described it as “tickling” the nose. The swab is gently swirled just inside the nostrils and then the swab is placed onto a treated card, closed and the test then “develops”. The actual swabbing will take a few seconds and your child will be asked to wait in the clinic until the test develops.
- The total time to perform the test is approximately five minutes from start to finish, that includes checking in with the nurse, sitting down, swabbing and waiting.
- This [video](#) demonstrates the test. It may help answer questions and allows you to see how minimally invasive it truly is. We hope this helps as testing will continue throughout the school year as required by the Governor’s Office.

Those families who have *not* provided consent to date, will receive a phone call during the week of December 21-23, 2020 **asking them if they wish to provide consent and wish to be present with their child, if randomly chosen for testing.** If you wish to be present with your child in order for the testing to be completed by our medical staff, we can absolutely accommodate this request.

If you choose this option when called by your child’s building staff you can expect the following to occur:

- You may provide verbal consent over the phone for your child to be tested.
- The office personnel speaking to you will offer you a date during the month of February, for you to bring your child to school and be tested. The appointment must be kept at the time you are given.
- That date and time will be on a Wednesday during the month of February (1st round of testing with parent presence). Please note the following:
 Union East Elementary School - Wednesday, February 3, 2020
 Middle School - Wednesday, February 10, 2020
 Union East Elementary & High School - Wednesday, February 24, 2020
- Location: ALL Testing in this model (parent presence) will be located in the High School Auditorium on the main campus at 3600 Union Rd, Cheektowaga, NY 14225. You must enter at the main entrance and will be directed to the auditorium for check in.
- Intake and testing will occur privately in the auditorium. At the time of check in, you will be asked to complete the consent form and have a seat. Once called for the test, you will accompany your child to 1 of 3 testing areas in the auditorium.
- Once the test is completed (this will take just a few minutes), you may take your child and go home.
- You will receive a phone call with your results following the testing on that same day.

If you have any additional questions, feel free to reach out to your building nurse who can answer those questions with ease. It is our building nurses, supervised by our Medical Director: Dr. Peter Kowalski, who will be performing the tests with your child.

Thank you for your support of this very important program. Testing will allow us to remain open in the Hybrid Model.

Mary A Morris

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