

CCSD COVID 19 Testing Program Questions and Answers - 2020-2021

Q: Why is there testing for COVID 19 in schools?

A: Pursuant to the Interim Guidance on Mandatory COVID 19 Testing in Public and Non-Public Schools Located in Areas Designated as “Yellow Zones” (or Orange Zones) Under the NYS Cluster Action Initiative, the NYSDOH has determined that schools open to in-person instruction are ***required to test 20% of in-person students, teachers and staff.*** The state however, has relaxed this requirement, now requiring the testing to be completed ***once per month***, vs. weekly.

Q: Is the school district considered an “approved site” for testing?

A: Yes. The Cheektowaga Central School District has been approved as an LSL or Limited Service Laboratory, which means it has become a testing site for the sole purpose of testing for COVID 19.

Q: What type of test will be used for students and staff?

A: The Binax NOW Covid 19 Antigen Card is the ONLY test device distributed to schools.

Q: Is the test safe for my child?

A: Yes, the test is safe and approved by the FDA

Q: Who will be performing the test?

A: The Cheektowaga Central School District Nursing staff: Mrs. Kim Krempa (Union East Nurse), Mrs. Erin Heerdts (Middle School Nurse), Mrs. Angela Brock (High School Nurse) and Mrs. Cassandra Morris (District Nurse).

Q: Are the nurses under the supervision of a Medical Director and are they trained to perform the test?

A: Yes. All nurses are under the supervision of our Medical Director: Dr. Peter Kowalski. Yes. All nurses have been trained in providing the Binax NOW Covid 19 Antigen Card test by Abbott.

Q: How does the antigen test work? What is involved in testing?

A: The test consists of a short nasal swab (like a Q-tip) that is circulated gently, in the opening of the nose for a few seconds. The swab is inserted into both nostrils in a circular motion and then is placed onto the testing card and closed while the test develops.

Q: Is there a video where I can see how the testing works?

A: Yes. There is a [quick video](#) provided by the US Government featuring Admiral Giroir, the Assistant Secretary for Health for the United States of America, taking the BINAX Rapid test. There is also a link to this video on the Cheektowaga CSD website.

Q: What is the accuracy of the BinaxNow COVID-19 Ag Card test?

A: In data submitted to the FDA from a clinical study conducted by Abbott with several leading U.S. research universities, the BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card demonstrated sensitivity of 97.1% (accuracy among positive test results) and specificity of 98.5% (accuracy among negative test results) in direct nasal swabs from individuals suspected of COVID-19 by their healthcare provider within the first 7 days of symptom onset.

Q: Must I provide consent in order for my child to be tested?

A: Yes

Q: If I wish to be present when the testing is completed, can I be?

A: Yes, but it is a scheduled event and you will be contacted by your child's building regarding the process. This testing is only performed on specific days during the month and is done by appointment only. You must provide consent and then bring your child to the main campus on that day.

Q: How will this work if I wish to be present?

A: A secretary from your child's building will call you and ask you if you wish to grant consent for your child to be tested and if so, you may be present. The test will be scheduled for a Wednesday with a specific time and will take place in the High High School auditorium on the main campus of the CCSD. When you enter, you will complete an intake series of questions and will be asked to sign consent then. You and your child will be called to a testing area and your child will be tested privately.

Q: How long before I know my child's results?

A: If your child is being tested while present on Hybrid days, the child will wait with the nurse in his/her school clinic until the test develops. The time frame is 15 minutes, before the child returns to class (the actual testing is about 5 minutes, but the whole process is 15) . You will receive a phone call that day to share the results of the test if negative.

Q: What if my child is positive?

A: Your child will be isolated in the clinic immediately and you will be called to pick up your child.

Q: When will parents be notified if/when their child is chosen for testing?

A: If your child has been chosen to be tested as part of the random 20% monthly sample, parents will be notified that their student is on the list to be tested during that month.

Q: How will test results be communicated to parents?

A: Test results will be communicated by the school nurse via telephone on the same day the student was tested. Whether positive or negative, the results will be shared. If negative, your child will bring home the data sheet provided at the time of the test that will provide information about the test itself. Clearly, if your child tested positive, he or she will be isolated and you will be asked to pick the child up from school. Therefore it is most important that your contact information is up to date and should you receive a call from the school nurse for any reason that says “we need to speak with you immediately” that you return the call. Please be sure to return any call you receive from the school nurse.

Q: If my child tests positive, can we get another, more accurate test?

A: The school district is required to notify the Erie County Department of Health with the name and contact information for any student that tests positive for COVID-19. You will receive a call from ECDOH and must follow their guidelines regarding follow up testing and contact tracing. In addition, if your child tests positive, they must immediately be picked up from school (as indicated above) and follow the 10-day isolation policy outlined in the CCSD reopening plan under health and safety.

Q: What will the individual administering the tests be wearing?

A: The school nurse will be wearing full PPE as prescribed for the testing, which includes N95 face mask, face shield, gown and gloves.

Q: Are there alternatives to having our child tested at school? Can we get our child tested on our own and use that result in lieu of testing at school?

A: Schools can accept written test results from healthcare providers, given within 7 days of their scheduled test date. If the nurse is in possession of current test results, those test results can be used in lieu of the testing in school.

Q: The CDC reduced the quarantine requirements. Is that being considered?

A: The Erie County DOH recently changed the quarantine requirements within our area. Contact tracers will make decisions on quarantining classroom contacts within 6 feet for 10 minutes or more rather than 60 minutes in a shared space.

A: How long will my child be sent home for if he/she tests positive?

A: The current guidance from Erie County says anyone with a positive test result must isolate for:
(1) 10 days after the first positive test if asymptomatic or 10 days from the first day symptoms began and
(2) 72 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications

Q: Will any children be exempt from testing?

A: Any child whose parent or guardian has provided a consent for testing will be subject to on-site testing if they are selected through our random selection process.

