



Keeping BH-BL Schools Open



On-Site Rapid Testing Fast Facts

What students, staff, and parents can expect

For the past few weeks, BH-BL's COVID-19 Coordinators have been in frequent contact with public health experts who have shared valuable resources and best practices so that if we are required to begin testing in order to keep our district open, we will be ready with testing protocols that are safe and efficient. Here are a few things to know about the in-school rapid tests:



They will only be administered by a school nurse or other qualified health professional.



They are considered non-invasive tests because they only require a quick swab of the lower portion of an individual's nostrils. The tests are fast and painless. They are *not* the deep-sinus swab tests often conducted at medical facilities.



The test results are available within minutes. Students and staff wait will for their results. Individual test results will only be shared with families, the school nurse, and the local DOH.



COVID19

Parents will be notified immediately by school personnel if their child's test result comes back positive. Parents will be asked to pick their child up from school.



Students who test positive will be relocated to a separate, supervised area until they are picked up from school. A staff member who tests positive will be sent home immediately. Any individual who tests positive will be required to be in mandatory quarantine as per the DOH guidelines, which can be found on our website. The district's COVID-19 Coordinators will work with DOH officials to implement contact tracing protocols, as appropriate. If the test results are negative, students may return to their classes.



Reports indicate that rapid tests are not necessarily the first choice by medical experts for individual needs. However, they are a reliable source to gather pool testing baseline data. The valuable data gathered, ease of use, and rapid results from this test make it the tool of choice for this particular application.

Parental Consent for Testing



Rapid testing of students is voluntary and done only with the advance consent of parents/guardians. Having consent allows the district to create a pool of eligible students to test should the district need to move forward quickly to conduct in-school testing. If parents do not want their children randomly tested, they simply will not be included in the pool of volunteers. If we have enough volunteers, names will be selected randomly.

From Dec. 7 to Dec. 11, a testing consent statement appeared on the daily Qualtrics Screening Survey. If you did not originally give consent for on-site rapid testing through the Qualtrics Screening but would now like to have your children added to the list, please contact Dan LeClaire at dleclaire@bhbl.org.

Other Information

It's important to note that public health parameters dictate that if a district cannot reach the required percentage threshold for testing, school building(s) will be required to close for in-person classes and must shift to fully remote instruction.



The rapid tests are provided to schools throughout New York state at no cost to the districts.

