

Miller Place Union Free School District

7 Memorial Drive, Miller Place, New York 11764-2036
Telephone: (631) 474-2700 Extension 722 Fax: (631) 474-0686

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Miller Place School District Student and Staff COVID-19 Testing FAQ

Posted December 16, 2020:

It is strongly encouraged that medically able staff and students receive a test and that they volunteer to do so.

All staff and students are eligible to participate in school based COVID-19 testing.

Parents, residents and community members are not eligible to participate in school based COVID-19 testing.

Students who do not consent to be tested are still able to attend schools in the same manner as those that do consent. It is important that every member of our school community do their part in stopping the spread of the virus and help keep our schools open. We remind all that if we do not reach the necessary testing participation percentages and find ourselves remaining in a yellow, orange or red zone that we will not be able to have schools open for in-person learning.

What are the requirements for testing in school districts?

Schools in yellow zones must test 20% of in-person students, faculty and staff proportionately over the two-week period immediately following the announcement of a yellow zone designation. If the results of the testing reveal that the positivity rate among the 20% of those tested is lower than the yellow zone's current 7-day positivity rate, testing at that school will no longer be required to continue.

Schools in orange zones will be required to test 20% of all students, staff and faculty proportionately over the course of a month, and schools in red zones will be required to test 30% of all students, staff and faculty proportionately over the course of a month. This will continue until the area is no longer designated yellow or orange zones.

How will I know if the District has to implement school-based testing?

If school-based testing is necessary, the District will be notified by the SCDOH (after receiving an advisory from Governor Cuomo) and we will notify our school community as quickly as possible. We will have three days in which to begin testing after we have received the zone designation notification.

Will the community be receiving more details and information regarding being labeled a Yellow Zone and required testing?

Yes. More information and details will be forthcoming in the future.

If the District must test, where will the tests come from?

NYSDOH is continuing to provide rapid testing kits for COVID-19 to local health departments (LHDs), hospitals, pharmacies, and other health care providers at no cost so long as testing is open to the public, offered free of charge, and prioritizes vulnerable and at-risk populations that may not currently have equitable access to testing.

Suffolk County has received a share of tests and has indicated that as many rapid tests as needed will be made available to any District that requires them.

What test will be utilized?

The BinaxNow Testing Kits will be utilized to test. This test is a quick nasal swab that can be easily administered. Information regarding the test can be found [here](https://www.abbott.com/BinaxNOW-Test-NAVICA-App.html#/):
<https://www.abbott.com/BinaxNOW-Test-NAVICA-App.html#/>

Who will administer the tests?

Only a registered nurse or EMT supervised by a registered nurse is qualified to perform the test in Suffolk County. The school district has trained all school nurses to test our students and staff and if necessary, partnered with qualified outside agencies. If you are a registered nurse or EMT and would like to volunteer your time to help provide testing for our schools should that become necessary, please contact Mr. Ron Petrie, Testing Coordinator.

How long will it take to get results and will people get their results immediately?

All tests are rapid tests and results are available in 15 minutes after application of the reagent to the swab sample.

What happens if my child tests positive? What if they test negative?

If your child tests positive, they will be placed in a supervised isolated area and parents or guardians will be contacted to pick up their child immediately. Students will then receive instructions regarding quarantine.

If your child tests negative, they can continue to attend class in-person and will receive information about preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Will it be acceptable for a student or staff member to get tested somewhere other than at school?

At this time, the state has shared that parents will have the option to have the test performed elsewhere. No test results may be received or used by the Miller Place School District that have been administered prior to becoming a designated Yellow Zone.

Do we need more than 20% of the school population to consent? Will students who do not consent to testing be allowed to attend school?

While 20% is the minimum for the Yellow Zone, our goal is to have 90% of our school community participate in testing so that we can remain open regardless of our micro-cluster designation.

Will the test take place in my child's building during the day?

At this time, we anticipate using Miller Place High School and potentially North Country Road Middle School as test sites. We want all students and staff to be as comfortable as possible during this process and our building staff and nurses will be directly involved. We believe it is important for the students to have a familiar face present during this process and will work to make them as comfortable as possible.

Can I accompany my child when they get tested?

While we are trying to limit the number of visitors to our school buildings, testing hours will include either before or after regular school hours for parents who wish to accompany their children to the test. Specific details regarding dates and times will be provided as soon as possible after we receive our zone designation.

It is expected that students **not** of high school age will have a parent accompanying the elementary student for the process. Secondary aged students (MPHS and NCRMS) have the option of testing during school hours without parental accompaniment, if that option is selected during the registration process (under Special Concerns). All other situations require a parent to be with their child to enter the testing site and to be tested. Elementary students (K-5) **MUST** have parental/guardian accompaniment.

What will happen to my personal information and test results?

Data will be shared between the test administrators and both the Suffolk County and NYS Department of Health Offices. Once the test data is uploaded into the DOH data reporting system, all hard copy forms and testing supplies with personal identifiable information will be shredded and discarded.

Will the waiting area be crowded?

No. The chairs will be separated by at least six feet and those waiting must wear masks.

Will the testing area be private?

Yes. Privacy screens will divide the swabbing area to ensure participant privacy during the rapid swab test process.

What does the testing site look like?

The following is a schematic of the testing site, which will follow all COVID-19 safety protocols.

