
Healthy Task Force #19: Rapid Testing Details

1 message

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Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 1:55 PM

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January 8, 2021

Rapid Testing Begins at Wheeler

Dear Wheeler community,

Below are the details of our on-campus surveillance testing that will begin this month and continue every 8-day cycle until at least our March Spring Break. This undertaking requires new efforts among our Health Services professionals who are already working hard to monitor community cases and health, as well as administrative support across the divisions as we set up BinaxNOW testing for everyone in our school community. As a result, we will also need help from parent volunteers to execute this at this pace. We know it is worth it for all of us to join together in this effort; we believe this regular testing will add another protective layer to help us feel more secure as we move through the winter season and toward eventual vaccinations and ultimately an end to the pandemic.

Consent Forms

To prepare for testing, you will need to: 1) fill out the Consent Form you can find below or in your Magnus Health portal by 1/18/21 and 2) review the FAQs we provide; both of which are on our [testing page on the website](#). Only one consent form is required per student, faculty or staff member for all testing sessions to be held. We will not be able to administer a test to anyone who has not submitted a consent form. Families of students will upload their consent forms much like they do their health records to the Magnus account you access on your Parent Portal. Your child's division assistant can assist you with questions about uploading the form.

Testing Schedule for Students

Faculty and staff on both campuses will be first to be tested on January 11 (you can share that information with your students!). The first administration for students will be January 21 and 25. The test we will use is the BinaxNOW test — a rapid (15 minute) shallow nasal swab. [Information about the test](#) can be found here and as an FAQ on the testing page of the Parent Portal. In addition, here is a [blog interview](#) written by Emily Oster about this rapid test that answers many questions.

The tests will be administered on-site, by Wheeler Health Center staff and additional trained support, including parents with a healthcare background to help with swabbing, and other parent volunteers for other roles that do not compromise confidentiality. We will be asking for as close

to 100% student participation as possible in this program so that we can ensure the most thorough possible surveillance. As mentioned, we will be sharing a video of some community members being tested to reassure young children. [If you are a parent with some experience in healthcare and time to give, please reach out to Deana Tineo, Family Engagement Coordinator at \[deanatineo@wheelerschool.org\]\(mailto:deanatineo@wheelerschool.org\). We will be sending out a sign up sheet to those who have indicated interest as well as to all parents or guardians in the healthcare community to see if they have time available to assist.](#)

Testing Dates:*

The first administration will be on January 21 and January 25.

- January 21: 1st, 2nd, 5th, 7th, and 8th in Providence and 6th at the Farm
- January 25: Hamilton LS, Wheeler 3rd, 4th, and all Upper Schoolers on campus
- Early Childhood and Athletes' testing schedules are still being coordinated. Information will be shared soon.
- Future testing dates include: February 3 and 4, February 17 and 18, and March 1 and 2. These dates will be added to the master calendar.

** Note these dates are subject to change and we will notify you in advance if they do.*

Questions and FAQs

If you do not see a question addressed on our [testing webpage](#), we encourage you to send any questions or concerns via this [Health Center email link](#) and we will add it to our FAQs or reach out to you directly.

Thank you for reading - this is yet another long COVID email and we appreciate your attention to it. We hope to see you all at our webinar on January 19 [Living Through the Pandemic: Managing Hope and Concern with the Vaccine on the Horizon](#).

Take care,



Allison Gaines Pell
Head of School

& The Healthy '20-'21 Task Force
Judy Diaz
Gary Esposito
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