



September 2 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE), in collaboration with the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH), is pleased to continue offering participation in a COVID-19 testing program at The Wheeler School for the 2021-22 school year. Rhode Island continues to pursue aggressive testing for COVID-19 as a foundation of addressing the pandemic in the state. This year, schools are establishing their testing programs based on RIDOH's recommendations. As part of the state testing approach, The Wheeler School is continuing COVID-19 testing for students, faculty and staff who are symptomatic at school; focused testing if a group of close contacts is identified at school; and surveillance testing at school for Nursery through Grade 6 students not yet eligible for vaccination.

Wheeler School is being provided a supply of BinaxNOW COVID-19 Antigen Test Cards, PCR testing supplies, and laboratory service by Dominion Laboratory. Students, faculty and staff at schools are being offered testing through this program until the end of the 2021/2022 school year free of charge. The Wheeler School aims to offer an ongoing testing program to students, faculty, and staff, although future testing may be dependent on supplies. This consent will apply for all testing sessions going forward through the end of the 2021/2022 school year. The Wheeler School plans to test beginning in mid-September through at least April. At any time, you or your student may decline to participate.

For each rapid testing session, your student will receive one nasal swab. This swab will be run on the BinaxNOW COVID-19 Antigen Test Card. The results of this test will be available within an hour. You will be called if the result is positive.

For each PCR testing session, your student will receive two nasal swabs. The swabs will be sent to Dominion Laboratory for the PCR test. You will be notified by Dominion Laboratory if the result is positive. With your permission, The Wheeler School will share your parent/guardian contact information with Dominion Laboratory for purposes of notification if your student should have a positive test result.

The school administrator at Wheeler will have access to the results of the BinaxNOW and/or PCR test. If you have any questions on the program you may reach out to the Wheeler School Health Center at 401-528-2192.

In order for your student to participate in this testing program, your permission is needed. **Please sign below and return this form back to the school if you would like your student to participate.**

Child's Name: _____

Child's Grade Level: _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____

In closing, we would like to thank you for your support of this new program and our efforts to expand our prevention, detection, and testing of COVID-19 in our state and within our schools.

