

**Derry Township School District**

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[www.hershey.k12.pa.us](http://www.hershey.k12.pa.us)

Dr. Stacy Winslow, Superintendent

Dr. Jason Reifsnyder, Assistant to the Superintendent

Dr. Aaron Shuman, Assistant to the Superintendent

November 1, 2021

Dear Families,

At Derry Township School District we seek to maintain a safe environment for employees, students, families, and the community. To support those goals, we have partnered with [Concentric by Ginkgo](#) to provide an optional and free diagnostic testing program.

We are offering this optional and free program to provide an extra layer of protection to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This program has two components: **symptomatic testing** for students who show symptoms of COVID-19 at home or school, and **asymptomatic testing** for students who may have been exposed to COVID-19 but are not showing symptoms. Each of these is a quick, non-invasive nasal swab that is collected under the supervision of a school nurse. Unlike COVID-19 tests of the past, these tests are not uncomfortable and are easy to administer.

Students may only participate with a signed consent form from a parent or guardian and the presence of a parent or guardian during the test itself. It is important to Derry Township School District that you are fully informed regarding the process and that we can answer any questions that you might have in advance of asking you to sign the consent form. Below is a description of the two different testing programs, how they are conducted, and what they are used for.

**Symptomatic testing** is used when a student is showing symptoms of COVID-19 during school or at home; students should not come to school if they are feeling sick while at home. Some symptoms of the virus look identical to other illnesses like the cold or flu, and this test tells us whether a symptomatic student has COVID-19 or not. This is a rapid test, and we receive the results of this test within 15 minutes. If a student that has symptoms tests negative, they will be required to isolate at home for a minimum of three days before they can be retested. If the retest is negative, the student will be allowed to stay at school. Students who are feeling sick while at home or students that need to be retested may call the school nurse to schedule a time to be tested/retested.

**Asymptomatic testing** allows students who have had close contact with a person who tested positive for COVID-19 while at school or at home to return to school after seven days if the student is not showing symptoms. Instead of needing to quarantine for an extended period of time, these students will take a rapid test on day 5 (or after) as long as they are not symptomatic. Students who test negative after day 5 of exposure can return to school after day 7 provided they are not showing symptoms. Students who are identified as close contacts may call the school nurse to schedule a time to be tested/retested

If a student tests positive for COVID-19, they must isolate at home for the CDC-recommended ten days since symptoms appeared or ten days since the positive test before returning to school. The student must also be without a fever for 24 hours.

To participate in the program, parents/guardians must sign a consent form on behalf of their child. As a reminder, there is no charge for participating in this voluntary program. If you have additional questions regarding the program, please contact **Jason Reifsnyder** at ([jreifsnyder@hershey.k12.pa.us](mailto:jreifsnyder@hershey.k12.pa.us)).

It is our hope that these measures will work together to keep our schools safe and your student in school. Thanks again for your support during this challenging time. We look forward to welcoming your students back to the classroom.

Sincerely,

Dr. Stacy Winslow