



# SCHOOL-BASED TESTING | COVID-19

## ELMIRA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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The New York State health department's daily reporting of COVID-19 indicates percentages that currently keep our schools in an 'orange-zone' micro-cluster of COVID-19 cases. Given this designation, return to an in-person instructional model is dependent upon school-based COVID-19 testing. New York State requires 100% of students and staff of 'orange-zones' to be tested prior to students returning to school and 25% of students and staff as long as the county is designated as an 'orange-zone' micro-cluster. It is our goal to provide you with as much information as possible in order for you to feel informed and well-educated about this school-based COVID-19 testing plan. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the District with your questions.

### **ABOUT COVID-19 TESTING IN SCHOOLS**

School-based testing requires a high degree of coordination and information exchange among health departments and schools.

The Elmira City School District has worked in partnership with the local and state health officials to develop a strategy for this school-based testing.

### **WHAT TYPE OF TEST WILL BE ADMINISTERED?**

New York State has provided Abbott's BinaxNOW™ testing kits. BinaxNOW™ is a fast, reliable and portable rapid test that includes a non-invasive nasal swab.

### **HOW IS THE SAMPLE TAKEN?**

The test is a non-invasive nasal swab and results will be available in 15 minutes.

### **WHAT DOES IT TEST?**

Diagnose current COVID-19 infection by detecting viral proteins.

### **WHO ADMINISTERS THE TEST?**

Trained school district personnel will administer testing, wearing necessary PPE in order to comply with CDC and health department regulations in certified school-based health centers.

### **HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO GET THE RESULTS?**

Abbott's BinaxNOW™ is a rapid test, taking approximately 15-minutes for results.



## **TESTING IS A PERSONAL CHOICE**

Testing for COVID-19 is not only a personal choice, it is an ethical choice that is left in the hands of our student's greatest care providers -- their parents/guardians. Testing is a personal choice, and as a District committed to a well-rounded educational experience despite the challenges of the pandemic, we ask parents to carefully consider this choice with good knowledge, judgement and insight.