



SCHOOL-BASED TESTING | COVID-19

ELMIRA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 12, 2020

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, affordable 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.