

NORTHAMPTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Superintendent

Nick Bernier
Business Administrator

September 16, 2021

Dear NPS Staff and Caregivers:

I would like to update you on our COVID-19 testing program. We are working with our vendor, CIC Health, to establish a schedule for routine covid safety checks (formerly called pooled testing). We hope to resume this form of testing on September 30, 2021.

Routine covid safety checks will occur weekly on **Thursdays at NHS, JFK and Leeds** and on **Fridays at BSS, JSS and RKFRR**. This testing mode involves a double swab method: one swab is put into a pool of tests, if the pool results are positive, the lab has individual swabs on hand to complete a PCR test right away, which will provide more accurate results and allow for contact tracing to begin sooner. If you receive a call from CIC Health, our contact tracers, or our school nurses, **it is imperative for you to answer your phone or return the phone call** as soon as you receive the message.

The district will continue to conduct symptomatic testing with the Abbott BinaxNOW antigen test. This testing will be administered to staff or students presenting with potential COVID symptoms during the school day. Given the increased transmissibility of the Delta variant, our current practice is to refer to all individuals presenting with potential COVID symptoms to their primary care providers and follow-up PCR testing.

Consent forms were sent home at the beginning of school, noting that consent is for all three (3) methods of testing (i.e. routine safety checks, symptomatic testing, and test and stay, which has currently been suspended in our district). Thank you to those who have filled out and returned paper copies. I would direct those who have not signed up with the paper consent to this link:

Consent Link: [Click Here](#)

Please complete the online or paper consent form to participate in our testing program.

In these ever changing times, thank you for your continued collaboration in helping to keep our school community healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

Lisa Safron, BSN,RN, NSCN