

September 20, 2021

Good afternoon,

Our school-based **COVID-19 Testing Program** will begin next week on **September 28th** and continue every Tuesday throughout the school year. This is an important district-wide COVID-19 mitigation strategy that is being used across the country to find cases early and prevent school transmission. Your school nurse has a specific plan for testing based on the number of staff and students participating with the explicit goal of minimizing disruption to academic delivery time.

Staff and students will be **collecting their own sample** by swabbing their lower nostrils which takes less than 2 minutes. Vermont's testing vendor, CIC Health has provided [this video](#) demonstrating self-swabbing by young children.

Please sign up by giving consent no later than Friday to give your school nurse time to plan accordingly. **You only have to give consent once** for the entire school year and you can rescind it at any time by calling or writing the school nurse. Results are sent from the testing software to the parents/guardians or adult testers at the same time they are sent to the School Nurse, District Coordinator and the Vermont Department of Health. The nurse will talk with you about a **positive result** before proceeding with the required contact tracing procedure. Please make sure your contact information on file at school is up-to-date. Results are **expected within 24 hours**. If you get a text from 86361 this is in regard to a COVID-19 notification from the Vermont Department of Health. Thank you.

I sincerely appreciate all of your collective efforts to keep our schools as safe as possible and our students healthy and in school.

Best,  
Susie Tann  
OESU District COVID Coordinator  
802-392-4025

