

Waterbury Public Schools

COVID-19 Testing – FAQ

1. Will COVID-19 screening be mandatory?

Answer: No, testing is voluntary. However, the more participants who consent to testing, the more effective the program will be in preventing the spread in the schools and the community.

2. How often will screening occur?

Answer: Screening will occur once a week beginning Monday, May 24.

3. How is the PCR-test sample collected?

Answer: It is a nasal swab. A member of the testing team will swab participants. **Please note that this is NOT an invasive swab.**

4. Where will the test be analyzed?

Answer: We are partnering with BioReference Laboratories to analyze the tests.

5. How long will it take to receive test results?

Answer: In most cases, test results will be received in 24-48 hours. As a reminder, students do not need to quarantine while awaiting test results and should be in school unless presenting with symptoms.

6. How will parents/guardians, students or staff be notified of results?

Answer: You will receive an individual notification from our school staff. BioReference Laboratories will also send an email with results to the email address provided in the consent form.

7. Is there a potential for false positives?

Answer: False positives are possible but very rare. The type of testing being performed, RT-PCR (real time PCR), is a molecular test and considered the “gold standard” in COVID-19 testing. It has the highest sensitivity and specificity of any testing currently available.

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8. Do we still need to wear masks, social distance, etc.?

***Answer:** The implementation of the testing program is intended to supplement, not replace, the other mitigation strategies currently in place on school campuses (e.g. mask wearing, frequent hand washing, physical distancing). Using testing in addition to following safety recommendations (both inside and outside of school) will help students and staff minimize health issues related to COVID-19, and help keep the school community safer.*