

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Oregon Department of Education, ODE, in collaboration with the Oregon Health Authority, OHA, on January 19<sup>th</sup> provided schools with an updated Ready Schools, Safe Learners guidance document. This guidance outlines health and safety requirements, which schools must implement to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

Effective March 1, 2021 ODE is advising all Oregon School Districts, which includes Oakridge School District (OSD), to offer free, on-site COVID 19 testing. Individuals who either display signs and symptoms of COVID 19 or have been known to have been exposed to someone who has COVID-19 may be tested.

The test is designed to quickly identify COVID-19 cases in K-12 schools, interrupt viral spread through households and in classrooms, reduce the risk for students and staff participating or returning to in-person instruction. The Abbott BinaxNOW rapid point-of-care antigen tests are being provided through the Federal Government to states.

The Abbott BinaxNOW rapid point-of-care antigen test is a shallow (1 inch) nasal swab test. The test is self-administered under the supervision of a trained tester. The person testing will be instructed to rotate a sterile swab around the outer edge of each nostril 5 times. The swab will be placed in a chemical solution for 15 minutes. At the conclusion of the 15 minutes, the test will register either as positive or negative result. The results will be shared with the parent / guardian/ and with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) as required under ORS 433.004 and ORS 433.008.

Oakridge School District is requesting all families sign the attached consent form and return to school by February 26, 2021, if they would like their child to participate in this testing opportunity at school. If it is determined your student should test, even though you have signed a consent form, you will receive a phone call, as well as you will need to come to school. As your student will also need to leave campus following the test as required as part of the Ready Schools, Safe Learner guidance as this person is showing COVID symptoms at the time of the test.

If you opt not to sign the consent, please know we will continue with our current practices of notifying parents / guardians when their child displays any signs or symptoms of not feeling well. We will not test without your consent.

If you have any questions, please contact either our Superintendent or your school's building administrator.

Respectfully:



Reta Doland  
Superintendent  
Oakridge School District