Dear Parents, Caregivers, and Guardians,

We know that last year was tough, but we’re excited to be back in the classroom this fall. We are committed to taking the steps necessary to help us have a safe school year. As part of our steps to help stop the spread of COVID-19 and keep our schools open for in-person learning, we will offer a **free voluntary COVID-19 Pool Testing Program for students and staff at RSU 29.** Regular testing will help protect our students, staff, family members, and others who are not yet vaccinated against COVID-19 or are otherwise at risk of getting seriously sick from COVID-19.

Through this program, we will be able to identify COVID-19 cases quickly and early, which can help us stop an outbreak before it happens. This will help us keep students in the classroom and able to take part in the school activities they love.

Please view the YouTube video to learn more about pooled testing.

**Pool Testing Overview**

- **Who will be tested?** We will offer testing to everyone - all students and staff.
- **How is the testing done?** The pool testing is quick and easy. A member of health services staff will oversee the testing. Students and staff will be taught how to self swab. The test requires a gentle swabbing of the inner part of the lower nostril. The test is not painful.
- **Where and when is the testing done?** The testing will be done outside the classroom on a weekly basis. We will be testing from a rolling cart in the hallway.
- **Follow-up testing for a positive pool will be conducted by our Health Service Staff.**

The following chart will show you how the State of Maine determines close contacts and quarantines in the school setting. As you can see, pool testing will reduce the time your child may spend in quarantine.
Please consider registering your child for our voluntary Pooled Testing program by using the following link and access code.

[consent form]

Access Codes:
HMHS -ABE31L
HSS - 11BK1X
HES - DCNARM

If your child is over the age of 18 please have them register with the following link:
[18 and over link]

Please use the access codes listed above.
If you are unable to sign up electronically, please contact the school for a paper consent.

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