

St. George Municipal School Unit

Excellence. Community. Engagement.



Greetings,

One of the best ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is through testing. That is why we are planning to make testing of students quick and easy, should it be needed.

Our school has opted into a State of Maine program that will allow us to get and use Abbott BinaxNOW Ag Tests. This test provides results in 15 minutes. The BinaxNOW test can be used for early detection of COVID-19 in students, staff and teachers. **We will only use this test for students/staff who develop some of the following signs and symptoms during the school day in accordance with the Maine AAP Algorithm:**

• fever or chills	• new loss of taste or smell
• cough	• sore throat
• shortness of breath or difficulty breathing	• congestion or runny nose
• fatigue	• nausea and vomiting
• muscle or body aches	• diarrhea
• headache	

Students over the age of 12 may have the capacity to self-swab with supervision, while school nurses will collect the specimens for children under the age of 12. We are asking parents/guardians to give us permission to test their child should they develop any of the above symptoms during the school day.

In the event your child comes to the nurse's office during the school day and is complaining of any of the above symptoms, you will first be called prior to the administration of the test. Filling out the consent form allows the school nurse to conduct the test at school if you so chose at that time. This test is a gentle swab of both nostrils ($\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$) of your child as directed by the Maine CDC.

In the event testing needs to take place at school:

- There will be no charge to families for testing.
- The school nurse will be in communication with the parent/guardian prior to testing and results will be shared with the parent/guardian. **Regardless of the test results, a student must be sent home from school and the parent/guardian will be instructed to contact their primary care physician for follow up.**

Please read and complete the enclosed/attached consent form and return to the school nurse. Please contact Autumn at a.belajonas@stgeorgemsu.org or 372-6312 with any questions.

Here's to a healthy school year!