



Smithfield School Department

Administration Office
49 Farnum Pike
Smithfield, RI 02917
(401) 231-6606 / Fax (401) 232-0870
www.smithfield-ps.org

Judith Paolucci, Ph. D.
Superintendent

Sara Monaco, Ed. D.
Assistant Superintendent

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 return to school. As part of steps to help stop the spread of COVID-19 and keep our school open for in-person learning, we will offer a **free COVID-19 Testing Program for students and staff at all Smithfield Public Schools**. Regular testing will help protect our students, staff, family members, and others who are not vaccinated against COVID-19 or are otherwise at risk for 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.

We are working with the Rhode Island Department of Health and are joining other school districts throughout the state that offer this program.

Who will be tested? We will offer testing to everyone—all students and staff.

How is the testing done? The COVID-19 testing is free, quick, and easy. Members of our school staff will oversee testing with a PCR test, which includes gently swabbing the inner part of the lower nostril. This test is not painful. We do not use the longer swabs that reach higher into the nose.

Where and when is the testing done? Testing will take place twice per month in each of our schools (**weekly for our unvaccinated athletes**). We will notify you of the date scheduled for your school prior to the testing. Results will be available within 24 – 48 hours.

How can I be sure that my child's information will be protected? Sharing of information about your child will only be done for public health purposes and in accordance with applicable law and policies protecting student privacy and the security of your child's data.

This letter asks your permission for us to regularly test your child as part of a free COVID-19 testing program at school.

We are extremely grateful to our committed families and staff who continue to show great flexibility and resilience as we work together to contain the spread of this virus. If you have questions regarding the COVID-19 Testing Program, please reach out our Covid Response Team at 401.349.4365.

Sincerely,