BRES WILDCAT NEWS

Kindness

Responsibility

Self-Control



Boothbay Region School Health 238 Townsend Ave. Boothbay Harbor Telephone (207) 633-9814 Fax (207) 633-7742

Subject: Pooled Testing

Dear Parents and Guardians,

BRES and BRHS will be adding a new strategy to our COVID-19 prevention measures in the new year: "pooled testing" in grades preK-12. With pooled testing, <u>enrolled</u> students and staff in a classroom will have a COVID-19 test once a week.

Pooled testing is a free and voluntary program.

Students participating in pooled testing will not need to quarantine from school if they are considered close contacts of a positive case, as long as they do not have symptoms.

Parents must sign a consent form in order for their child to participate.

We believe pooled testing will be an important part of keeping classrooms safe and will greatly reduce the number of days any student will need to be out of school in quarantine.

To get started, please fill out the consent form with your permission to perform a COVID-19 pooled test for your student at Boothbay Region Elementary. This process should take no more than 5 minutes to complete using a computer or a smartphone.

- 1. First, click here (https://testcenter.concentricbyginkgo.com/minor-consent).
- 2. Then, enter this access code: PTI0DH
- 3. Finally, enter your child's information, and you're done!

Note: If you need to provide consent for more than one child, please complete the process once for each child.

HERE IS HOW POOLED TESTING WORKS:

- One day per week, each student who is enrolled in the program will do a nasal self swab in class. Each child will be given a swab, and they will put it just inside each nostril, and then all the swabs will be placed in one testing tube.
- The tube will be sent to a lab. In about 48 hours, the school nurse will see the results of the test. If the tube, or "pool," is negative, nothing needs to be done. The class will continue to be tested on a regular weekly basis.
- If a tube is positive, each person in that group must have another test. The school nurse
 will do a rapid "BinaxNOW" test at school. Each student that has a negative "BinaxNOW"
 test can return to class.
- Any student who is positive must stay in the isolation area of the nurse's office and their
 parent will be notified. The parent must come to school to pick up their child. A student
 who is positive for COVID cannot stay in school and cannot ride the bus home. Please
 have a plan to pick up your child from school during school hours in the event your child
 becomes ill. Be sure the school has your most up-to-date contact information.
- Following our current CDC guidelines, anyone who is a close contact of a positive case and is NOT part of pooled testing or fully vaccinated will need to quarantine for 10 days from last exposure. A COVID test is recommended 5-7 days from exposure.
- Any student who is a close contact from school exposure and IS part of pooled testing
 and/or fully vaccinated, can continue to come to school and participate in sports and
 after school activities, as long as they do not have symptoms of COVID. Students who
 are part of pooled testing may continue to come to school because they are being tested
 weekly for COVID.
- IMPORTANT: Any student who has symptoms of COVID regardless if they are part of pooled testing or not – must stay home until symptoms have resolved and/or they have been cleared by their physician.

For more information on pooled testing from the company we will be working with, Click here.

Pooled testing is slated to begin on January 10th, 2022

To learn more about pooled testing, read the attached overview of <u>Concentric's</u> pooled testing program and watch this <u>video</u> from another school using this service.

For more information, visit Concentric by Ginkgo's <u>website</u> or reach out to Kate <u>Schwehm</u>. School Nurse 633-9814.





DECEMBER 4+5, 11+12, 18+19



December. Bring your family and friends. I want to see your merry faces and send you all good cheer.

All aboard! Canta

P.S. Please write back with your holiday wish!

Arrive at Freeport Station, write your letter to Santa, then board the train to the North Pole to hand deliver your letter to Santa!

Return from the North Pole to enjoy festivities around the Village-hunt for elves, make smore's around the bonfire, visit the ice harvesting exhibit, shop at the Iron Horse Antiques Holiday Market, and more!

Tickets are very limited and available online only:

RAILWAYVILLAGE.ORG

Mask required on train and inside buildings.



TRAIN SCHEDULE

Train every 45 minutes

DECEMBER 4+5, 11+12, 18+19

Saturdays & Sundays

10:45AM 11:30AM 12:15PM 1:00PM 1:45PM 2:30PM 3:15PM 4:00PM

DECEMBER 1, 2021 CHILDREN 9-14





TEENS BENEFIT FROM SPENDING TIME WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY DURING THE HOLIDAYS.



TEENS STILL NEED
REST. KEEP AS CLOSE
TO SCHEDULE AS
POSSIBLE TO HELP
WITH BEHAVIOR.



MONITOR FOODS AND SWEETS. MANY NEGATIVE BEHAVIORS CAN COME FROM HIGH SUGAR INTAKE.

PARENTING TIPS

Holiday Tips

Giving adolescents room to be adolescents is important, especially around the holidays. The process of becoming an adult is one in which children separate from their parents. It's a painful process for both teens and their parents. And, when teens assert their individuality during the holidays, it can be particularly sad for the parents. Decide what's important in your family and remember what it was like being a teen yourself.









Happy Holidays



Important Dates

Thursday, Dec. 23 - Jan -2

Christmas Break

Tuesday, Jan. 4

Home Middle School Basketball Game Begins @ 3:45 PM

Thursday, Jan. 6

Home Middle School Basketball Game Begins @ 3:45 PM

