

Dear Monroe Elementary and Morse Memorial School Families,

RSU 3 will be adding POOLED TESTING to our COVID-19 prevention measures this school year. Pooled testing is for K-12 students and staff. Monroe Elementary and Morse Memorial will be starting pooled testing at the end of February. Both schools will be pool tested every Monday, starting February 28th. Pooled testing means that students in a classroom will have a COVID-19 PCR test once a week. Pooled testing is a voluntary program for which vaccinated or unvaccinated students may participate in. Parents must sign a consent form in order for their child to participate. All of the testing is free. We believe pooled testing will be an important part of keeping classrooms safe by identifying positive COVID-19 cases and having them isolate at home to decrease the spread of the virus.

### **HERE IS HOW POOLED TESTING WORKS:**

- One day per week, each student who is enrolled in the program will do a self nasal COVID swab in class. Younger students will have assistance from a trained adult. Each child will be given a swab, and they will put it just inside each nostril and rotate the swab around 4 times. The swab is inserted in the lower nostril only. Then all the swabs will be placed in one testing tube.
- The test 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 the tube, or “pool” is positive, each person in that group must have another test. A trained staff member 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 “sick room” room and their parents will be notified. The parent must pick up their child as soon as possible. A student who is positive for COVID-19 cannot stay in school and cannot ride the bus home.
- Students who’ve had a recent positive test for COVID-19 will need to wait 90 days to participate in Pooled Testing.
- **IMPORTANT: Any student who has symptoms of COVID - regardless if they are part of pooled testing or not - must stay home and get a COVID-19 test, or be cleared to return to school by their physician.**

For more information on pooled testing from the company we will be working with, click [HERE](#)  
Or go to [concentricbyginko.com](http://concentricbyginko.com)

**Pooled testing is slated to begin on February 28th. Any questions can be directed to the RSU 3 Health Office at 568-4606. Please sign up by February 16th so we have time to organize the program.**

To sign up for pooled testing *online* go to this link [HERE](#). When you sign up for testing at Monroe or Morse, you will need to use the code:

**For Monroe Elementary use access code: MONROE04951**

**For Morse Memorial use access code: MORSE04921**

You can also sign up online by going to the RSU 3 website ([rsu3.org](http://rsu3.org)), click Menu, click COVID-19 Information, then click the link to Pooled Testing Information. This page has the link and the MONROE AND MORSE ACCESS CODES to sign up, plus some educational videos about pooled testing.

Attached is a paper permission form to sign up for pooled testing but the preferred method is to sign up using the online link above.

Informational links about Pooled Testing:

Website for the company we partner with for pooled testing  
<https://www.concentricbyginkgo.com/>

2-Minute video - Salem Public School explaining the process of Pooled Testing  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DlhVdzg6-rk>

2nd grader instructing how to self swab  
<https://youtu.be/fJML8xBEKGk>