

FAQ: JPS COVID-19 Testing Consent Form



Jamestown families, you have a critical role to play in protecting the health and safety of students and staff in our schools. Our ability to keep school buildings open depends on helping us stay aware of, and take immediate action, to address COVID-19 concerns in our buildings.

As you know, Governor Cuomo has been assigning certain counties and other parts of the state as “yellow”, “orange” or “red” microcluster zones. Those zone designations require COVID testing of students and staff in schools. In the event that Chautauqua county, or a part of the county that includes our schools is impacted, we are looking to be proactive and provide a consent form for parents and guardians.

JPS will not be testing students or staff, unless the state mandates it for our county or region.

To this end, a testing consent form will be sent home with elementary & middle school students and mailed home for JHS students. If you consent, please sign the form and return it to your child's school by no later than December 22nd. If you do not receive a form, please contact your school's main office to receive one.

Q. Why do we need complete a COVID-19 testing consent form now?

A. If all or part of Chautauqua County is designated a yellow or orange zone, in alignment with the state’s micro-cluster strategy for containing COVID-19, the district would be required to conduct random testing each day on a percentage of in-person individuals at all buildings, including district offices. In an effort to be proactive, the district should be prepared in advance in case the county is designated as an orange or yellow zone, in order to keep in-person instruction continuing for students and disruption to a minimum.

Q. Who will be tested if NYS mandates it?

A. Only students who attend in-person instruction will be randomly tested based on NYS requirements. Remote learners do not need to complete a testing consent form. JPS staff will also be tested randomly.

Q. How often would you test my child?

A. This depends on the microcluster zone designation. In a yellow zone, testing will likely only happen one time. In orange and red zones, testing occurs once per month. JPS will test some students & staff each day by random selection. If you consent, your child may be selected for testing on one or more of these occasions. In addition, your child may also be tested throughout the school year in accordance with state and department of health mandates.



Q. What does the COVID-19 test look like for my child & who will administer the test?

A. The free test, given by school nurses, is easy, quick and safe. Instead of the “long swab” that goes in the back of the nose, this test is a short, small swab (like a Q-Tip) that goes in the front of the nose only. Later this school year, and depending on the directives of the Chautauqua County Department of Health or the NYS Department of Health, it is possible that tests will be administered by collecting a small amount of saliva (spit).

Q. What if my child does not want to be tested, even if I gave consent?

A. We want to assure you that if your child is selected for testing but is uncomfortable or unable to be tested, we will not test your child and will work with you to address any concerns so that they can participate in future testing. We are focused on making this a brief and gentle experience for our students, led by trained testers.

Q. Will I know if my child has been tested?

A. You will be notified if your child has a COVID-19 test at school. The results will be provided to you regardless of whether the test result is positive or negative.

Q. What should I do when I receive my child’s test results?

A. If your child’s test results are positive, please contact your child’s doctor immediately to review the test results and to discuss what you should do next. You should keep your child at home and inform your child’s school. If your child’s test results are negative, this means that the virus was not detected in your child’s specimen. If your child tests negative but has symptoms of COVID-19, or if you have concerns about your child’s exposure to COVID-19, you should call your child’s doctor or the school nurse.

Q. Will there be accommodations made for special needs students?

A. We will not test students who exhibit anxiety or discomfort with the testing process. Should there be a need to discuss an accommodation, please reach out to the school nurse in your child’s school to explain the need.