



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 maintain 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 Suffolk Public Schools** in partnership with the Virginia Department of Health. 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. Additionally, we will be able to offer testing for those who have symptoms of COVID-19, even if vaccinated, or who have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19. This will help us keep students and staff in the classroom and able to take part in the school activities they love.

We recommend everyone complete the consent and registration process for both the symptomatic and screening testing programs. As these are two different testing types, we have separate consents located here:

1. **Screening Testing Program:** You can pre-register through Primary Health's platform for the screening program. Please refer to the end of this document for a list of registration links. This registration will take no longer than 5 minutes and is only done one time!

We are working with our Virginia Department of Health and are joining other school districts throughout the state that offer this program. Here is a little more information about the testing program and process:

- **Who will be tested?** We will offer testing to everyone—all students and staff—even if they don't have symptoms of COVID-19. Testing is voluntary but highly recommended. It is free of cost to you so no insurance information is needed, nor will you ever be asked to pay for these tests.
 - **How is the testing done?** Testing will primarily be done through self-swabbing and monitored by trained staff on site for our screening program and utilize PCR testing.
 - **Screening:** 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?** Our school's screening testing site will be school specific and will take place weekly.
- **How will I get my child's results?** **Screening** results and communication will be shared electronically to the email and contact information used for registration. We recommend you register electronically through the link [here](#) which also allows you to consent to testing. We also have paper-based consent options available and the ability to receive results via a hotline. Results will be available within 24-48 hours from collection.
- **What happens if my child is positive?** If your child tests positive, the school will contact you directly. Your child should remain at home and isolate from others until at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, and no fever for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications, and symptom improvement.
- **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. Everyone with access to results is required to undergo full HIPAA training on these requirements as well.



This letter asks your permission for us to:

- **regularly test your child as part of a free COVID-19 testing program at school,**

To learn more or register your child for screening, please visit <https://my.primary.health/l/suffolk-public-schools>.

Any student participating in athletics and extracurricular activities who is not fully vaccinated or participating in the TestingWorks! screening testing program will need to submit negative COVID test results each Monday. The specimen collection should not be dated prior to the previous Monday. For questions regarding acceptable tests, please refer to the FAQs on the Suffolk Public Schools athletics page.

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 to your school's Director of Student Activities.

Sincerely,

Richard Fortune

Richard Fortune, Supervisor of Activities and Athletics

Please see below for a list of schools and their corresponding registration links:

College and Career Academy at Pruden: <https://my.primary.health/l/college-and-career-academy-at-pruden>

Colonel Fred Cherry Middle School: <https://my.primary.health/l/colonel-fred-cherry-middle>

Forest Glen Middle: <https://my.primary.health/l/forest-glen-middle>

John F. Kennedy Middle: <https://my.primary.health/l/john-f-kennedy-middle>

John Yeates Middle: <https://my.primary.health/l/john-yeates-middle>

King's Fork High: <https://my.primary.health/l/king-s-fork-high>

King's Fork Middle: <https://my.primary.health/l/king-s-fork-middle>

Lakeland High: <https://my.primary.health/l/lakeland-high>

Nansemond River High: <https://my.primary.health/l/nansemond-river-high>