

Introduction and Purpose

To further support successful in-person instruction and help diminish community transmission of COVID-19, the Yonkers Public Schools (YPS) is collaborating with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) to provide COVID-19 rapid surveillance testing in schools using the [BinaxNOW™ COVID-19 Ag Card](#).

Students with parental consent and staff may volunteer to be screened at school. The weekly goal is to conduct up to 20% COVID-19 rapid surveillance tests on eligible adults and students in schools across the district. All results are confidential. Positive surveillance test results are required to be reported to the NYSDOH.

Eligibility

YPS employees who are not fully vaccinated or who have not tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days, may voluntarily participate in surveillance testing. Adults who are fully vaccinated or any person who was COVID-19 positive in the last 90 days will not be tested.

All YPS prekindergarten through grade 12 students attending school in-person (Groups E and C) and all YPS staff are eligible to participate. Students who tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days or are fully vaccinated will not be tested.

Surveillance Testing Strategy In Schools

Surveillance testing in schools refers to regular surveillance testing for eligible individuals who voluntarily request to participate and who are not experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms. It is an added safeguard to minimize the spread of COVID-19 within our schools and community. Surveillance testing is free to eligible YPS students and staff.

Frequency for surveillance testing will follow a New York State school surveillance-testing model. YPS will administer surveillance tests to approximately 5 to 8 school communities each week with the goal of testing approximately 20% of the total in-person school population each month. Participants will not be allowed to be tested two weeks consecutively, and YPS cannot guarantee the number of times volunteers will be able to participate.

Required Consent Forms

Voluntary participation in YPS surveillance testing requires parents/guardians of YPS students and YPS employees to complete the YPS consent forms. Below are links:

- [YPS Staff Consent Form for COVID-19 Surveillance Testing through June 30, 2021](#)
- [YPS Student Consent Form for COVID-19 Surveillance Testing through August 31, 2021](#)

Surveillance Test Administration

The District will administer, in collaboration with the NYSDOH, COVID-19 rapid surveillance testing in schools using the [BinaxNOW™ COVID-19 Ag Card](#) from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, provided by the State of New York. The BinaxNow COVID-19 Ag Card has received FDA Emergency Use Authorization for a rapid digital health solution.

School nurses will administer the BinaxNow COVID-19 Ag Card test to authorized YPS children and employees upon arrival at school in the morning.

Staff Responsibilities

The YPS Student Health & Wellness Department will be responsible for collecting all forms and samples. YPS nurses will:

- maintain Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplies,
- administer, interpret and process the tests,
- if required, for positive test results isolate the individual(s), begin contact tracing and immediate parent/guardian notification for YPS positive students,
- complete all required NYSDOH documentation, and
- communicate the testing results to the individual and students' parents/guardians.

School administration, and/or the designee appointed by the principal, will assist with the:

- review of paperwork to ensure all consent forms and required NYSDOH documentation are properly completed,
- communication of test result notifications to all participants as well as positive results that would require contact tracing and immediate parent/guardian notification for YPS positive students, and
- flow and social distancing during the testing process.

What you need to know about COVID-19 Isolation, Quarantining and School Closure.

Following Westchester County Department of Health (County DOH) Contact Tracing protocols:

- **Isolation** for 10 days is required for anyone who tests positive for COVID-19.
- **Quarantining** is determined by the District's Medical Staff in consultation with the County DOH.
- **School Closure** is determined by the Superintendent of Schools, in consultation with District Medical Staff and County DOH. There are three primary factors that drive the decision to close a school:
 - Number of individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19; this will vary in every instance.
 - Potential community transmission.
 - Number of adults required to quarantine, which would impact a school's ability to ensure sufficient personnel are in school for instruction and supervision.

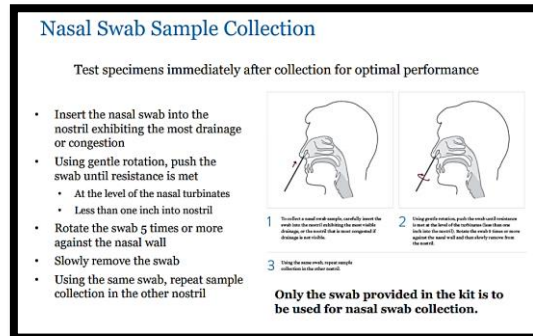
BinaxNow™ COVID-19 Ag Card

[Abbott's BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card](#) has received FDA Emergency Use Authorization for a rapid digital health solution. It tests for specific COVID-19 antigens (the proteins that make up the virus), which are the part of a virus that prompts an immune system response and signal an active infection.

Information about how the test works is available [online from Abbott](#) and on the District's website at [Yonkers Public Schools Together Safely #YPSTogetherSafely](#), www.yonkerspublicschools.org/yps-together-safely.

This coronavirus testing involves nasal swabbing to detect an active COVID-19 infection through a nasopharyngeal culture. In 15 minutes, the BinaxNOW card gives a result.

A school nurse will use a simple nasal swab, similar to a Q-Tip, to insert into the front of the nose.



Privacy

NOTIFICATION OF INFORMATION SHARING

Federal and state law allow for some information about students and staff to be shared with and among YPS and other local officials, including, but not limited to the YPS Student Health & Wellness Department, New York State and Westchester County Departments of Health. Information sharing is only for public health purposes, which may include notifying close contacts of a positive individual if they have been exposed to COVID-19, and taking other steps to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 in our school community. This information may include the individual's name and COVID-19 test results, date of birth/age, gender, race/ethnicity, school name(s), teacher(s), classroom/cohort/pod, enrollment and attendance history, and afterschool or other program participation, names of other family members or guardians, address, telephone, mobile number, and email address. Sharing of information is in accordance with applicable law and City policies protecting student privacy and the security of your child's data.

Communication

Participants will receive communication within 15 minutes of their test results by the school nurse and/or school administration.

School administrators will follow District protocols for notifying their school communities about positive surveillance test results while ensuring the positive individual's (s') privacy.

The Superintendent of Schools in consultation with the YPS Student Health & Wellness Department will notify stakeholder leaderships and Board of Education Trustees of positive COVID-19 test results. This information is posted on the District's homepage, www.yonkerspublicschools.org/daily-covid19-update.