



Colchester School District

Administrative Offices, 125 Laker Lane, PO Box 27, Colchester, Vermont 05446

Phone: (802) 264-5999 • www.csdvt.org • Fax: (802) 863-4774

September 10, 2021

CSD Community,

Thank you for your continued support as we kick off the 2021-2022 school year. At Colchester School District, keeping our students and staff safe and in school is our top priority. We have learned a great deal over this past year and our current guidance and procedures reflect the most updated recommendations from the CDC and the [Vermont Department of Health](#).

For the 2021-22 school year, we are offering an extra layer of protection to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our schools — **our COVID-19 testing program**. This program is free for students and staff, and participation in the program is highly encouraged, regardless of vaccination status. Although students who are vaccinated are less likely to spread or contract the virus, unvaccinated individuals are still at risk of exposure, and it is important for us to create an inclusive environment for both vaccinated and unvaccinated students.

All schools in the district will be conducting voluntary weekly testing by way of a quick, non-invasive nasal swab, collected under the supervision of a school nurse, or other trained staff. Unlike many COVID-19 tests of the past, these are easy for students 5 years and older to perform themselves under supervision. [Click here to watch a 1-minute video showing how testing will work in our schools.](#)

Students may only participate in the program with permission from a parent or guardian. To participate in the program, you must sign this [consent form](#) on behalf of your student. Any student aged 5 years or older is eligible to participate. Employees interested in participating should fill out the same [consent form](#). There is no charge for participating and you can enroll at any time throughout the school year. If at any point you wish to unenroll in the program, simply email CSD Nursing Supervisor and COVID-19 Testing Program Coordinator, Moriah McCullagh, at moriah.mccullagh@colchestersd.org.

Results will be available to students and guardians via a private login to a personal testing portal. In the event of a positive test, the family will receive a call from the Vermont Department of Health and the district will follow our normal procedures to identify and provide quarantine guidance to any school-related close contacts.

To assess the operational setup that we have created for this testing program, the district will conduct an internal pilot of the program on Monday, September 20th. After making any necessary adjustments, **we anticipate starting the weekly testing program for all students and staff on Monday, September 27th.**

Thanks again for your support. We will share more details as they are finalized.

Sincerely,

Colchester School District

Amy Minor
Superintendent
of Schools

George Trieb
Business & Operations
Manager

Carrie Lutz
Director of Student
Support Services

Gwendolyn Carmolli
Director of Curriculum
& Instruction