

Dear Parents,

I wish you a happy and safe holiday season.

The rate of Covid-19 cases has been rising and New York State has developed a zone system (yellow, orange, red) based on positivity rates. If Wildwood School falls into one of these zones, we will be required to begin testing students and staff. We are committed to remaining open as long as possible, so we have developed plans for testing to take place at school. Your consent is required for testing.

Here are some important points:

- You are not required to give permission for the test and not all students will be tested. We need to test a percentage of students to be compliant and to stay open.
 - Yellow Zone 20%
 - Orange and Red Zones 30%.
- Adirondack Health and Wellness (adkhw.com) will conduct the testing at both our Curry and Latham sites. The tests will be performed by health care professionals who are aware of our students' unique needs.
- The test uses a nasal swab inserted into the lower part of each nostril for five seconds. **(This is not the type of test that goes far up into the nasal cavity.)** Wildwood staff will accompany students to the testing room. If students are unable to tolerate the test, they will not be required to, even if you have granted permission.
- Results will be available in approximately 15 minutes. If a child tests positive, they will be escorted to the isolation room and parents will be asked to pick them up. Further directions will be given at that time. If a child tests negative, they will continue with the school day.
- If we do not have enough students able to tolerate the test, we will consider other options to remain in compliance (e.g. allowing parents in the school to support students during testing, etc.)
- We have developed a social story to help explain testing to students. If we are required to begin testing, we will share the social story with them and you. In the meantime, if you would like further information about the test, Adirondack Health and Wellness has a video on their website explaining the procedure. <https://www.adkhw.com/covid-video>

The permission form is included with this letter. Please review, sign, and return it, whether you are, or are not, granting permission for testing. We would like all forms returned before the end of the holiday break. We will notify families if we enter a zone that requires testing.

This year has been a stressful time for students and families and we know that you are faced with new challenges all the time. Please reach out to us if we can help in any way. Thank you for all you do!