

Dear Parents, Caregivers, and School Staff:

**Numbers of COVID-19 cases in the City of Buffalo are continuing to increase! The tentative start date for the new COVID-19 testing program is December 13, 2021.**

COVID-19 testing is a great way to monitor and contain the spread of the virus. The Buffalo Public Schools in partnership with the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH), Buffalo Homecare, Inc., and Quadrant Biosciences, Inc. Laboratory is pleased to offer high quality on school site optional COVID-19 random surveillance testing.

COVID-19 testing will be for any staff or student who consents to participate, regardless of their vaccination status.

Testing will occur weekly and will consist of a random selection of 10% of the consenting school population. This program uses an oral (mouth) PCR test swab that will be gentle, minimally invasive, and can be self-collected by the person being tested.

Anyone vaccinated or unvaccinated who consents can be tested in the surveillance testing program. Prior to this tentative start date, if you choose to participate in the optional testing program, please follow the steps outlined below by ECDOH, in order to ensure that you are correctly enrolled in this program.

Step 1: Watch the ECDOH Program Overview Presentation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZJSjuhJ38rl>

Step 2: Register with and complete the Quadrant Program Consent Form:

<https://app.clarifi-covid-19.com/>

It is important to note that our testing program will not fulfill the New York State Department of Health's requirement for unvaccinated staff to be tested weekly.

Thank you for working with us to quickly re-establish a school testing program to help fulfill our goal of keeping our buildings safe and open for instruction.