



**Akron Central School District**

*In Pursuit of Excellence*



# **COVID-19 Surveillance & Proximal Testing**

**Erie County Department of Health,  
Quadrant Biosciences and Buffalo Homecare, Inc.  
&  
Akron Central School District**

**September 24, 2021**





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## What is Surveillance Testing?

- Surveillance testing occurs when 10% of consenting individuals are administered a COVID-19 PCR test one time per week

## Who Is Eligible for Surveillance Testing?

- All faculty, staff and students K-12
- Fully vaccinated people are eligible, despite not needing to quarantine, through contact tracing, per current guidance





## COVID-19 Surveillance

- COVID-19 surveillance testing can provide an important prevention strategy and safety net to support in-person education in schools
- Per NYSDOH guidance, the opportunity for weekly surveillance testing is required for areas with moderate, substantial, and high transmission





## COVID-19 Surveillance

- Surveillance testing is based on a random sample of at least 10% of consenting individuals
- PCR tests are used for surveillance testing which are reported to be the most accurate COVID-19 tests available.





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## Background Information

- **ECDOH** - overseeing the program
- **Quadrant Biosciences** - lab located on UB South Campus
- **Buffalo Homecare, Inc.** - provides the staffing and supplies to conduct the testing
- Federally funded program - No cost to the school district





## COVID-19 Surveillance at ACS

- The District is working with the ECDOH to provide **FREE** COVID-19 surveillance testing on campus for any employee or student (with family permission) who would like to participate regardless of vaccination status.
- The testing will be a saliva test (oral swab) and results are available in 24 hours or less.





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## Why Are We Doing This?

- To provide an added layer of protection to keep the faculty, staff, and students safe
- To support the goal of in-person learning happening 5 days per week-
  - Through early detection, we hope to reduce the chance of transmission within school buildings





## Testing Procedures & Information

- Self administered oral swabs - less invasive. NOT a nasal swab
- Must not have eaten/drunk anything for 30 minutes prior to collection
- 20 seconds is all it takes for the oral swab
  - Inside cheek/gum and under tongue about 10 seconds each
  - Buffalo Homecare professional will observe and swab children if necessary
- Results go to parents/guardian, ECDOH, and Akron representative





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## What is Proximal Testing?

- Testing for anybody that was in close proximity to the positive COVID-19 individual.

## Who Is Eligible for Proximal Testing?

- All faculty, staff and students K-12
- Anyone who was in the room or proximity of a positive case who does not meet close contact criteria
  - Student Close Contact Criteria: within 3 feet or less of a positive COVID-19 case for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24 hour period, with or without a mask
  - Staff Close Contact Criteria: within 6 feet or less of a positive COVID-19 case for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24 hour period, with or without a mask
- Fully vaccinated people are eligible for proximal testing, despite not needing to quarantine per current guidance



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## What is the Purpose of Proximal Testing?

- Identify if transmission has occurred
- Remove risk to protect the overall building
- Positive proximal testing could result in further quarantine
- 2-3 positives within the same area over a 5 day timeframe means the school may be at risk to a larger outbreak





## Registration & Consent

- Both surveillance and proximal testing require registration and consent from parent/guardian
- Quadrant Biosciences has a video that explains the registration process  
(Video: <https://vimeo.com/580028969/8c78535db2>)
- In addition, [please click here](#) for written step by step directions on how to register
- Lack of insurance is not a barrier to participation
- Results through Quadrant Biosciences in less than 24 hours.





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## Other Information

- Testing will be done in a confidential manner. Results will be not be shared with anyone other than the individual or parent, District coordinator and ECDOH
- Tests will be administered in the school building
- Symptomatic Testing/ Diagnostic Testing - is **not provided** through this testing program. Symptomatic individuals will be sent home and advised to get a PCR test through a testing provider
- At this time, there is no separate testing for athletes but they can register for surveillance and/or proximal testing





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## Next Steps For All...

- Consider enrolling for proximal and surveillance testing. Enrollment is always open.
- Always watch for symptoms and don't come to school if sick. Symptoms could be mild to severe. Help prevent the spread! Look for the following:
  - Fever or chills
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Fatigue
  - Muscle or body aches
  - Headache
  - New loss of taste or smell
  - Sore throat
  - Congestion or runny nose
  - Nausea or vomiting
  - Diarrhea





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**Thank you for your ongoing support!**

If you have any questions, please contact the  
ECDOH School Team at (716) 858-1918.

