



Akron Central School District

In Pursuit of Excellence

*Patrick D. McCabe
Superintendent of Schools*

November 18, 2020

Dear ACS Parent and Guardians:

I wanted to follow up on my letter from last week with additional information regarding our continued planning for a possible Yellow Zone designation.

We continue to work toward the goal of providing free Rapid COVID-19 testing to 20% of our in-school students and staff members. However, we have encountered some new and unexpected challenges. Specifically, in order to conduct COVID-19 testing a school district must have the collaboration of a licensed Laboratory Director. At this time, both the Erie County Department of Health and our Medical Director have not agreed to form a partnership with the Akron Central School District. Obviously this is a disappointing development as our application for the Limited Service Laboratory (LSL) Registration and ability to order tests is contingent on a partnership with a qualified healthcare practitioner.

Despite this, we continue to make preparations for in-school testing. For your convenience, a COVID-19 consent to test form will be mailed to your home. In addition, an electronic consent form is posted on our website and linked below. Parents may complete either form.

- You may view the paper version of the consent form that will be mailed to you by opening this link: [COVID-19 testing consent form](#)
- To complete the electronic consent form please open this link: [Electronic consent form](#)

We ask that you read the letter carefully and reply either by returning the paper copy to the school main office or completing the electronic version as quickly as possible. The ability to test students is a critical component of our overall plan to control the spread of the virus and maintain in-person learning. The letter outlines the testing requirements and provides some information on how the data will be used. However, I recognize that you may have questions and concerns about the test itself. Please click on the link and take a moment to view this brief video that shows how the [BinaxNOW™ test is administered](#). This test will be supplied by the New York State Department of Health and will be used in all schools across the state.

Other elements of our plan, including all logistical considerations, are being addressed. [For more information on our plan, please view this informational presentation](#). We will continue to provide you with updates and information on a regular basis. We hope that we can continue with in-person instruction through the hybrid model and we appreciate your timely response to testing consent forms.

I cannot thank all of our parents enough for being such strong partners throughout this process. Responding to our current health crisis is a shared responsibility and we are grateful for the trust and support that exists in the ACS community. This pandemic is an unprecedented event and we have continued to respond and adapt as each new challenge emerges. We will continue to do whatever it takes to ensure the safety of our students and staff and provide the best educational program that we possibly can. On behalf of the Board of Education and our entire faculty and staff, thank you again for support.

Sincerely,

Patrick D. McCabe
Superintendent of Schools