

State Mandated COVID-19 Testing Informational Meeting for Participants

Eastern Suffolk BOCES

October 5, 2021

Mandating COVID-19 testing

- ▶ Two types of testing are:
 - ▶ (1) Diagnostic Testing (for individuals who, regardless of vaccination status, are symptomatic or are asymptomatic but have been exposed to someone with COVID-19); this includes students and staffand
 - ▶ (2) Mandatory Screening Testing (testing of asymptomatic employees with no exposure or symptoms).
 - ▶ Teachers and staff who have been fully vaccinated AND provide proof of vaccination may be permitted by the employing school district to “opt-out” of the mandatory weekly testing.
 - ▶ And, again, the impact or effects of such mandatory testing may be subject to negotiation upon demand.

Q: What are the **diagnostic COVID-19 testing requirements for employees or students who are symptomatic or have been exposed and are asymptomatic?**

- ▶ A: School districts are required to have the capacity (either directly on-site or via referral) to provide diagnostic testing for individuals, including teachers, staff and students, who regardless of vaccination status, are
 - ▶ (a) symptomatic or
 - ▶ (b) asymptomatic, but have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.
- ▶ ESBOCES will be providing referral information for community testing sites for these cases as we have since 2020.

Q: How does an employer maintain and store COVID-19 testing results and vaccination status for its employees?

- ▶ A: According to EEOC Guidance, testing data and vaccination status is considered medical information and must be kept confidential and maintained in a medical file, stored separately from the personnel file.
- ▶ Within this medical file (even if it predated COVID), an employer may store all medical information related to COVID-19.
- ▶ While COVID-19 status is considered confidential, employers may disclose the name of the employee to a public health agency if the employer learns of a positive test.
- ▶ If an employee tests positive, or is displaying symptoms, employers should “make every effort to limit the number of people who get to know the name of the employee.”

Q: Is antibody testing a permissible alternative to mandated weekly screening testing for P-12 school employees?

- ▶ A: Likely Not.
- ▶ The emergency regulations provide that the Commissioner of Health “may require routine COVID-19 testing” and that such “testing determination may also include alternatives to testing”
- ▶ **The only alternative to mandatory weekly screening testing set forth in the COH Determination is for a school employee to provide proof of vaccination.**
- ▶ Further, the COH Determination only considers two types of testing, nucleic acid amplification tests (NAAT) or a SARS-CoV-2 point of care antigen test (Antigen Test).

Q: I want to be tested regardless of my vaccination status. Can I?

A. Not as part of the ESBOCES
Screening testing program

ESBOCES Testing Program - Key Points



- ▶ Testing program began the week of September 27, 2021
- ▶ Employees who are not choosing to opt-out must provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test once per week.
- ▶ Test results can be provided to ESBOCES at any point during the week.
- ▶ Employees who are part of this Mandatory Screening Program **DO NOT** need to quarantine while they are awaiting their weekly testing results.
- ▶ Employees have many options for obtaining COVID-19 tests at no out-of-pocket expense to the employee

ESBOCES Testing Program - Key Points - continued

Suffolk County Department of Health Testing Location
Drive-Thru

COVID-19 Rapid Testing for Teachers, Faculty, Bus Drivers and other educational
staff



Drive-Through Testing

Must show Your School ID

Employee Verification:

School district staff members will need to show ID or a letter (on school letterhead) at the testing site noting they are an employee of the school district. These testing sites are only for school district *asymptomatic* employees (not family members or dependents).

ESBOCES Testing Program - Key Points - continued



Suffolk County Department of Health

COVID-19 Rapid Testing Sites for Teachers, Faculty, Bus Drivers, and other educational staff

- Monday 10am-6pm Francis S. Gabreski Airport, Westhampton Beach: enter on Cook Street, one block south of entrance to airport on the left - Drive-Through Testing: No Appointment Required
- Tuesday 9:30am-5:30pm - Suffolk Bus, 2309 Union Blvd., Bay Shore, NY - Appointment needed
- Wednesday
 - 2pm-8pm - H. Lee Dennison Building: 100 Vets Highway, Hauppauge - Appointment needed
 - 9:30 am-5:30 pm - Suffolk Bus, 2152 Route 112, Coram - Appointment needed
- Thursday 10am-6pm Mattituck: 385 Depot Lane, Cutchogue Drive-Through Testing: No Appointment Required
- Saturday 8am-4pm Smith Point County Park: 1 William Floyd Pkwy, Shirley - Drive-Through Testing: No Appointment Required

ESBOCES Testing Program - Key Points - continued

Additional Testing Sites Available for all:

- ▶ In addition to these county-sponsored locations, unvaccinated staff members can also visit any one of the following testing sites in Suffolk County on their own.
- ▶ Symptomatic employees should see their own physicians and/or visit one of these locations:
- ▶ 19 City MD Locations
- ▶ 19 CVS Locations
- ▶ 15 Quest Locations
- ▶ 14 Go Health (Northwell) Locations
- ▶ 11 STAT Health Locations
- ▶ 11 Walgreens Locations



ESBOCES Testing Program - Key Points - continued

Additional Testing Sites Available for All:

- ▶ 10 Sun River Health Locations
- ▶ 6 Rite Aid Locations
- ▶ 5 ProHealth Catholic Services Locations
- ▶ 4 Long Island Urgent Care Locations
- ▶ 3 MD 365 Locations
- ▶ 3 Enzo Labs Locations
- ▶ 2 American Family Urgent Care Locations
- ▶ 2 Excel Urgent Care Locations

(This list does not include hospitals, medical practices, government-run testing sites, mobile pop-up site, or single location testing sites.)



New *Option* for testing In-house, self-administered COVID-19 tests

We have finalized a contract with *On-site Medical* to assist staff to fulfill their Weekly Testing Screening Requirement. These tests are ideal because, they are:

- ▶ Self-administered
- ▶ Provide rapid results
- ▶ Can be securely uploaded
- ▶ Are medically managed by the vendor
- ▶ NOTE: these are rapid tests for screening of asymptomatic individuals

In-house, self-administered COVID-19 tests

Employee Responsibilities

Watch the how to videos available on the BOCES website

How to create an employee user profile with this vendor

How to administer the COVID-19 test

First time only - using the provided QR code, create a user profile in the vendor's web-based portal. This may be done at home prior to testing.

Once per week obtain one test kit from an identified location in the building

Go to the provided, private testing location in your building

Follow the directions for administering and uploading your results and identification via a smart phone or iPad to the vendor

Wipe down the area with materials provided

Dispose of all testing materials as specified in the videos

Notify your administrator if you test positive and follow our protocols for positive cases

You will receive an email confirmation of your test results

ESBOCES will have access to a portal to receive ONLY test results from participating employees

If employees choose this option they will no longer need to upload information into School Front

In-house, self-administered COVID-19 tests

Building Administrator Responsibility

- ▶ Sign for the tests that are delivered to your location
- ▶ Provide a location for the tests to be secured and discretely obtained by employees (i.e. nurse's office, THIS WILL VARY BY LOCATION, not all buildings have a nurse)
 - ▶ NOTE: you are not tracking who takes a test, other than obvious abuse
- ▶ Provide a location for staff to test discretely with a flat surface for their use, cleaning supplies (sink for handwashing or hand sanitizer, appropriate container for disposal, sanitizing wipes to clean the surface)
- ▶ Manage the use of this room, if needed
- ▶ Provide a trusted (by staff) individual to assist with technology issues for any staff who may struggle with using an iPad to log in with a QR code or upload a photo. We expect this for the first few weeks only.

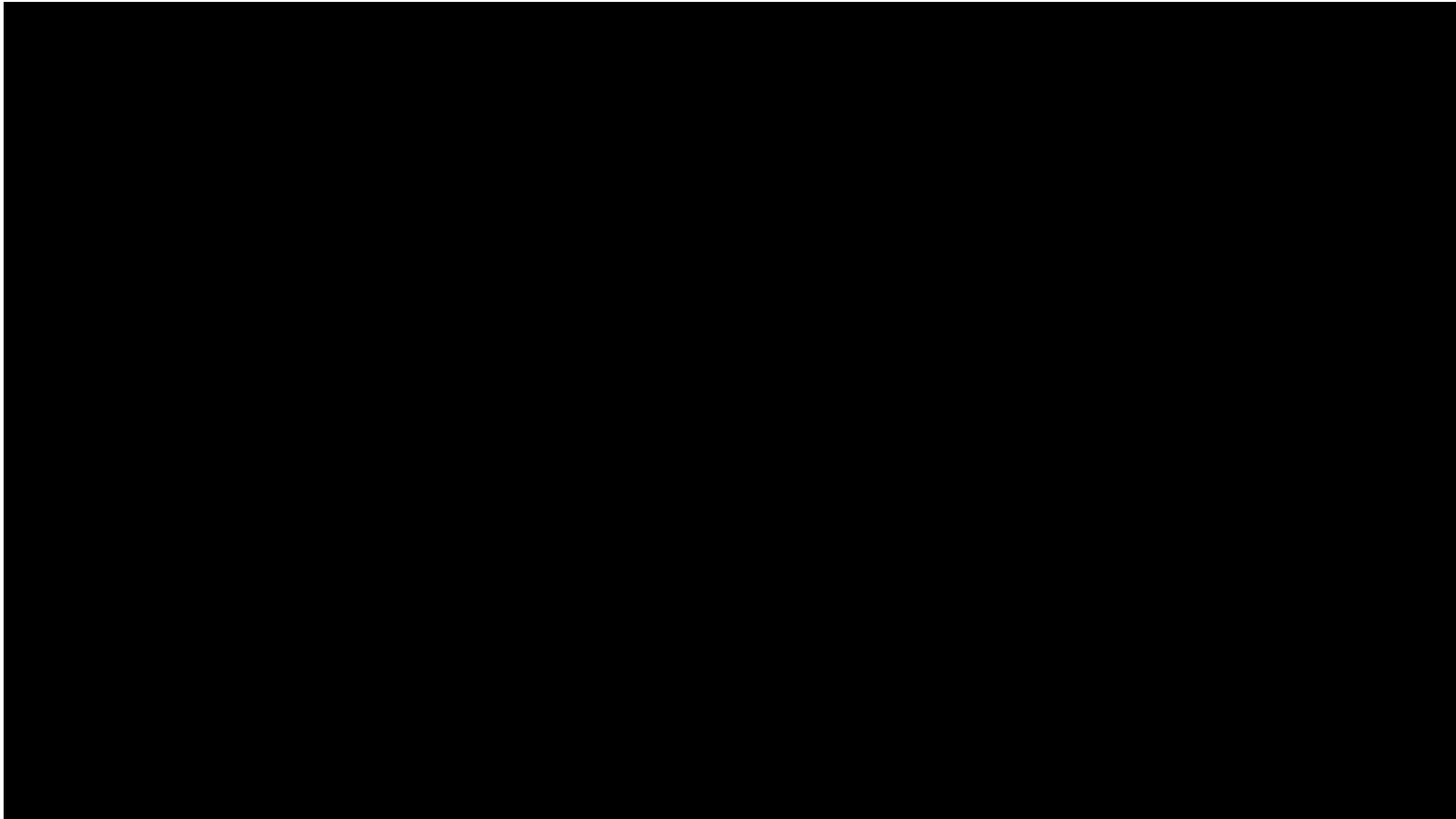
In-house, self-administered COVID-19 tests

Other Things

- ▶ This screening testing must be conducted on site
- ▶ Testing at an outside location is *STILL* permissible
- ▶ Screening testing does not pertain to visitors. Visitors must still meet our entry requirements.
- ▶ Substitutes *MAY* test in any building and upload to the system just like other employees who are part of this screening program
- ▶ These screening tests may *NOT* be used for symptomatic or exposed employees. These individuals should be referred out as they were last year.
- ▶ The status of employees testing compliance *DOES NOT* need to be managed by building administrators. It will be managed centrally with employees being notified if they are not in compliance and can not come to work.

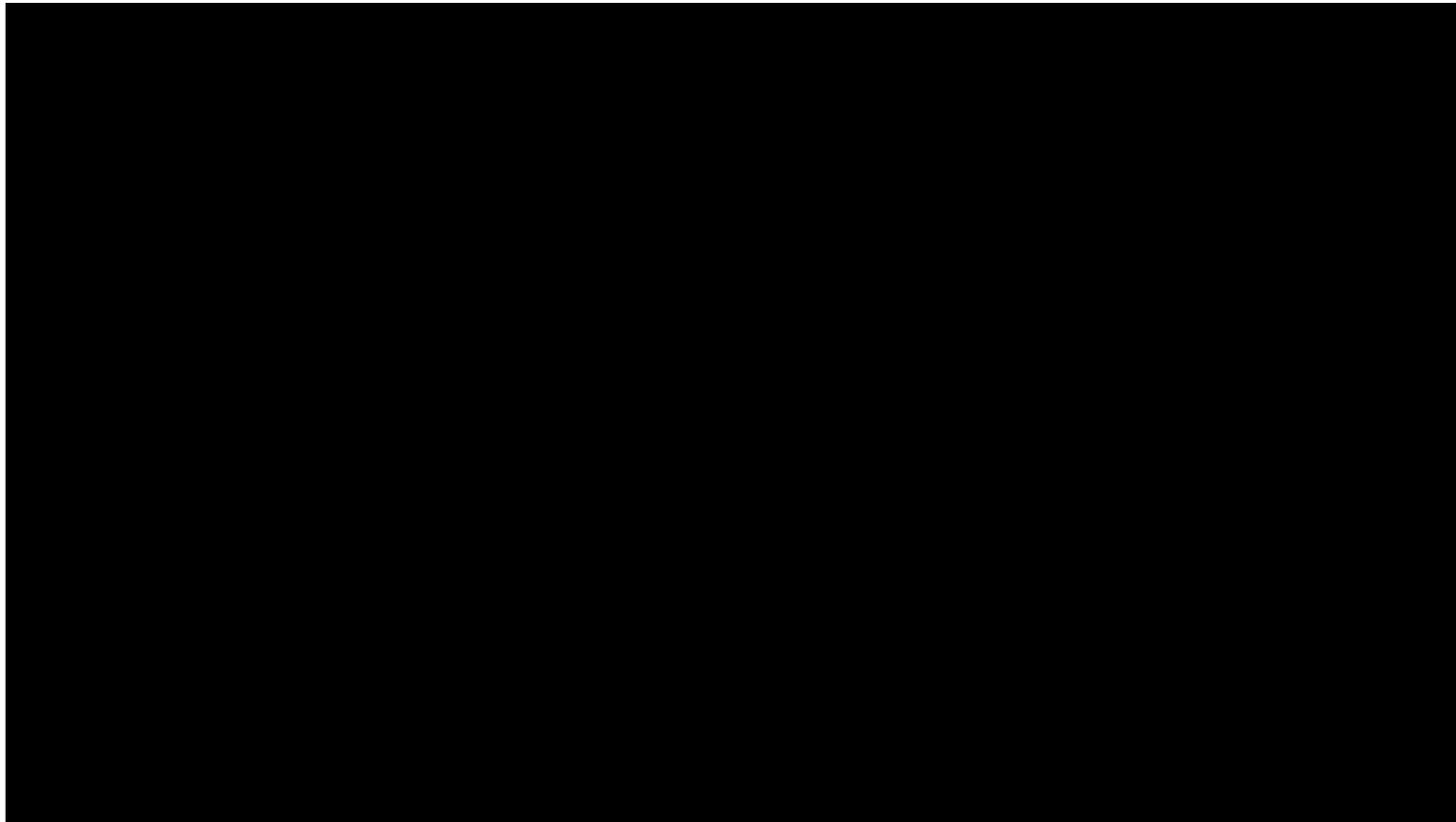
Informational Videos

COVID-19 Employee Mandated Asymptomatic Weekly Screening: Patient Portal Sign-up Process (10:19)



Informational Videos

COVID-19 Employee Mandated Asymptomatic Weekly Screening: The Self-Testing Procedure (20:48)



Employees may still choose to test on their own

Options for reporting COVID-19 test results for outside tests

- ▶ Upload into the School Front portal
- ▶ Place a copy of your test results clearly marked with your name into a sealed envelope,
- ▶ Send via interoffice mail to:

COVID-19 Testing Program
Department of Human Resources
James Hines Administration Center



