

## RCSD Jan. 3 Gateway Testing Program & Registration Link

Dear RCSD Families, Faculty and Staff,

We hope that you and your loved ones are looking forward to a very well-deserved winter break. As we grapple with the current surge of COVID cases in Rye and beyond, and knowing that many will travel and gather over the winter break, it is critical to try to stop the spread in our community and keep schools open for in-person learning.

To expand our current COVID-19 mitigation and safety measures, the RCSD will offer a one-time, voluntary “**gateway**” testing event on **Monday, January 3, 2022**, for all vaccinated and unvaccinated students and staff. In an effort to identify and isolate positive COVID cases, we have partnered with Westchester County and Mt. Sinai Hospital to offer free saliva-based PCR tests, rather than the BinaxNOW rapid nasal swab tests used in our surveillance testing program. Please note: this testing will take the place of our regular surveillance testing that week and is completely voluntary. Students, faculty, and staff are not required to test to return to school on January 3.

We are hoping to achieve broad participation in this testing event. If you would like to have your student participate, or if you as a staff member would like to be tested, please complete the HIPAA-compliant consent form linked below **by 12 p.m. on December 27** (even if you have previously consented to testing as Mt. Sinai is a different agency) so that the testing kits can be prepared in advance. We will not be able to accommodate same/day walk-in testing.

<https://hipaa.jotform.com/213504820048044>

Parent(s) and/or guardian(s) of students/adult employees wishing to be tested must pre-register with the link listed above. Testing kits can be picked up on **Monday, January 3**, in one of three formats below:

Time	Format	Location
7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.	Walk up pickup	Central Administration Building (CAB) at 555 Theodore Fremd, Suite B101
9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Drive Through pickup	Osborn School, 10 Osborn Rd.
3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Walk up pickup	Central Administration Building (CAB) at 555 Theodore Fremd, Suite B101

Individuals testing positive will be notified by the district within 24 hours of sample collection (on

Wednesday, January 5). Individuals testing negative will be notified through email by the end of the week. If you have any questions about the testing process, feel free to contact Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Brian Alm ([alm.brian@ryeschools.org](mailto:alm.brian@ryeschools.org)). The tests should be self-administered at home and then returned by **Tuesday, January 4, 2022, no later than 9:30 a.m.** either at CAB or at a drop box conveniently located at the student's home school's security desk. Late drop offs will not be processed.

Please be assured that your child(ren)'s information will be safeguarded in compliance with the New York State Department of Health Privacy Protection Act, as well as with all Federal, State, and Local HIPAA data privacy and data security standards.

Gateway testing is an important tool for keeping the community safe as students, faculty, and staff convene on campus for the start of the new year. We hope you will consider participating. Thank you for your continued support as we work to keep our community safe.

Sincerely,

Eric Byrne, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools