

School header

January 8, 2021

Dear Parents:

Our school has opted into a State of Maine program that will allow us to perform Abbott BinaxNOW Ag Tests. This test provides results in 15 minutes. The BinaxNOW test can be used for early detection of COVID-19 in students, staff and teachers. We will only use this test for students/staff who have symptoms and have given consent for testing.

• fever or chills	• new loss of taste or smell
• cough	• sore throat
• shortness of breath or difficulty breathing	• congestion or runny nose
• fatigue	• nausea or vomiting
• muscle or body aches	• diarrhea
• headache	

The BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card is an antigen test that detects the presence of proteins from the virus that causes COVID-19. This test is performed by using a swab in the anterior nares. Students over the age of 12 may have the capacity to self-swab with supervision, while the school nurse will collect the specimens for children under the age of 12. We are asking parents/guardians to give us permission to test their child should they develop any of the above symptoms during the school day (while waiting for pick up) or wish to be tested during an absence for new symptoms (by appointment in the parking lot).

- Testing is FREE
- A student or employee with 2 or more less common symptoms or one of the more common symptoms are eligible for testing. Regardless of a negative BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag test done at school or elsewhere, **students who are symptomatic are still required to quarantine for 10 days unless a physician directs them otherwise and provides a return to school note.** The school nurse will communicate with the parent/guardian of the student tested and results will be shared with the parent/guardian. If a student is negative, the parent/guardian will receive an email/phone call with results. If a student is positive, the parent/guardian will receive a phone call from the school and the results will be shared with the student's primary care physician and Maine CDC per reporting guidelines.
- Benefits of testing include identification of the illness, quarantine and isolation guidance for individual and family, and to minimize outbreaks in the school community.
- Consent forms are attached to this notice for each child attending school.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at school.

Sincerely,

Trisha Lebeda
Nurse

v.11-4-20

School header