

December 16, 2020

Dear Families,

In recent weeks, you may have become aware of the “yellow zone” designation for areas in our region. In order to keep students in school for in-person instruction, the Moriah Central School District must test 20% of in-person students, faculty and staff over the two-week period immediately following the announcement of a yellow zone designation by the Governor’s Office. We are currently preparing for testing should our region be designated as a yellow zone. If the results of the School District testing reveal that the positivity rate among the 20% of those tested is lower than the yellow zone’s current 7-day positivity rate, testing at our school will no longer be required to continue. A positivity rate in a school that is lower than in the yellow zone is a sufficient demonstration that in-person instruction is not a significant driver of local viral spread. The current positivity rate for zones can be found at <https://forward.ny.gov/percentage-positive-results-county-dashboard>.

However, if the results of the testing over the first two weeks reveal that the positivity rate among in-person students and staff is higher than the Yellow Zone’s current 7-day positivity rate, the School will be required to continue to test 20% of the in-person population on a bi-weekly basis.

The test will be done on campus by trained staff, at no cost to the parent. You will be notified before any testing is done, with communication going out if your child is selected for the testing group. Test groups will be randomly selected using a randomizing program to ensure the staff and student population is fairly represented in each area of the building. You will be notified immediately of any positive result by a member of our nursing or administrative staff.

In order to conduct testing on your child, the Moriah Central School District will need your consent to meet this state requirement. The test being used is different from the ones you may have already experienced. The new rapid COVID-19 test, Abbott Binax Now, is less invasive and involves a quick swab inside the lower part of the nose. Please feel free to visit our website to watch a video on the Abbott Binax Now test.

We are doing our very best to keep our kids in school. If needed, testing days will be conducted over a period of days to ensure those students participating in our Jr./Sr. High School Hybrid Model will be on site to participate in the testing program.

Please complete the enclosed consent form and return it back to your child's classroom or homeroom teacher as soon as possible. You will need to fill one out for every child you have attending Moriah Central School.

I understand this is a frightening time in our schools, in our community and in our state. We are hoping we do not fall into a yellow zone, but if we do, we want to be fully prepared to offer testing so we can safely keep our doors open to our kids and our staff for as long as we possibly can.

Please feel free to contact me at (518)-546-3301, ext. 505 if you have any questions about yellow zone testing.

Sincerely,

William J. Larrow  
Superintendent of Schools  
Moriah Central School District

## COVID-19 Testing Parental Consent Form

By selecting "yes" below, I attest that:

- *I have signed this form freely and voluntarily, and I am legally authorized to make decisions for the child named in this form.*
- *I consent to my child being tested for COVID-19 infection.*
- *I understand that my child may be tested at multiple times during the 2020-21 school year.*
- *I understand that this consent form will be valid through June 30, 2021, unless I revoke such consent in writing.*
- *I understand that my child's test results, and other information may be disclosed as permitted by law.*
- *I understand that should my child test positive for COVID-19, they will not be permitted to return to school until they meet the Health Department's criteria for returning to school.*
- *I understand that should my child test positive for COVID-19, I must contact my child's physician immediately to review the test results.*
- *I understand that I have the right to be present when my child is tested and will reach out to the school district to make an appointment to be present if my child is selected for testing.*

Student Name

Student Grade Level

Student Building or Program

☐

I consent to having my child tested by **DISTRICT**.

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I do not consent to having my child tested by DISTRICT.

Parent/ Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Email

Parent/Guardian Phone

Signature

Date