



## North Middlesex Regional School District Health Services

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

The NMRSD school nurses are excited to be having so many of our students back fully in-person on April 5. It is our mission to ensure that every child is healthy, safe, and ready to learn every day at NM.

In order to ensure that we have everything needed to keep your students safe at school and support their academic and social success, we are asking you to review the following documents. Please complete the forms that are appropriate relative to your child's health needs. You may make copies of your completed forms and send them in with your child. You may also download to your computer, complete, and email back. It is important that these forms be **returned to your school nurse by Friday, April 2, 2021**. The following documents are linked in this letter:

1. [General health update](#) - please complete **one of these for each student**
2. [Over-the-counter medication permission form](#) - to be filled out by **all students** returning to in-person learning from all remote models.
3. [Medication administration form](#) - for students who will need medication at school
  - a. One form completed for each medication, signed by your PCP and the parent/guardian
4. [Epi-pen permission form](#) - for students who need an epi-pen for a life-threatening allergy
5. Emergency action plans for students with allergies or asthma
  - a. [Allergy Action Plan](#)
  - b. [Asthma Action Plan](#)
  - c. [Seizure Action Plan](#)

We will also continue to offer the Abbott BinaxNOW COVID-19 Rapid Testing in school for those students and staff members who develop symptoms during the school day. Below is the information on how to create an account with Project Beacon and sign the consents for your student to be tested during the school day, should they become ill. Please be aware that we would always call the parent/guardian first before testing any student. However, they **do need to be registered** with Project Beacon in advance in order to do the testing.

Thank you so much for your time and attention to this paperwork. We look forward to coming together again on April 5th!

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# Abbott BinaxNOW COVID-19 Rapid Testing Program Enrollment and Consent

## This Document is Only for Students and Families

### Project Beacon COVID-19 rapid antigen testing for our school community!

We are excited to be able to offer rapid antigen testing in school for those *students who develop COVID-like symptoms during the school day*. The purpose of the rapid testing in school is to help us quickly identify possible cases of COVID in school. Through the early detection of students who are COVID positive and the subsequent identification and quarantining of close contacts, in-school transmission can potentially be completely prevented. This is one more tool NMRSD will use to mitigate the impact of COVID within the school community and keep our students and staff learning in-person.

Project Beacon is providing the online platform for testing consent and reporting. Each student who is interested in participating will need to have an account with Project Beacon that is linked to the school they attend.

Here is the process:

1. Register in the Project Beacon Online System (by school).
  - a. The links to access the registration portal for your school and the codes needed are listed below.
2. Provide consent **Binax (*symptomatic antigen*)** Testing (by school)
  - a. Consent for symptomatic Binax testing is required. The results will be shared with the Department of Public Health, the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health, and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in addition to your building nurse and the Supervisor of Health Services.

**Step One** is to enroll your child in the Project Beacon platform. Please select the appropriate link to start:

AES	SMS	HBMS	SECC	NMRHS	VBES	NMS
<a href="#">Register</a> Code GHQAGI	<a href="#">Register</a> Code ZVRLSS	<a href="#">Register</a> Code ODVLXY	<a href="#">Register</a> Code ULNQWE	<a href="#">Register</a> Code QXXOVO	<a href="#">Register</a> Code QGMESW	<a href="#">Register</a> Code FRXWMY

If you are new to project Beacon, click on the “register” link and create a new account. If you have a pre-existing account with Project Beacon, sign in using your current account information and enter one of the organizational codes above. Steps for setting up an account can be reviewed [here](#).

*\*Families with more than one student should create multiple profiles for each student.*

*Instructions can be found [here](#).*

*\*\*Families with students who are 18 years of age or older can create a profile for their student, or opt to have their student create his/her own profile.*

**Step Two** is to give consent on the Project Beacon website. This is actually part of the process when you create your account. You will be consenting to the testing process and allowing Project Beacon to share the results of your test with the Department of Public Health. The Nashoba Associated Boards of Health and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will also be notified.

Once you have created the account and signed the online consents, your student will be able to be tested at school should they develop COVID-like symptoms during the school day.

If you have any issues using the codes, please reach out to Project Beacon’s support center: [help@beacontesting.com](mailto:help@beacontesting.com)

## **What Testing Is:**

Testing is a glimpse in time and represents the individual's COVID-19 status only at the moment the sample is taken. Testing provides an additional tool in our mitigation toolbox and the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the movement of COVID-19 within the NMRSD schools and communities.

Rapid antigen testing has not been approved for clinical decision making, which means that all antigen tests (no matter the results) need to be followed up by a PCR test for confirmation. Rapid antigen testing does allow the school nurse to begin contact tracing immediately if the student or staff member is positive and help prevent further transmission of the virus.

## **What Testing Is Not:**

It is NOT a safety pass. It does not confer safety, nor does it reduce risk when engaging in social activities. It is NOT permitted to travel or engage in other high-risk activities.

- If you are symptomatic outside of school please continue to follow current NMRSD Covid-19 protocols to remain home and seek testing through your provider or public testing site. Testing of symptomatic individuals puts school staff, including the nurse, at risk of contracting the virus, and should only be conducted when medically necessary. Please do your part and remain home if you develop symptoms and follow the current procedures for return to school. Please do not send your child in sick requesting to be tested upon entry, please contact your PCP and keep your child home.
- If you develop symptoms while at school. Please continue to follow the current NMRSD Covid-19 Policy and seek an assessment by your school nurse. If warranted a rapid antigen test will be conducted at this time.

## **Limitations of Testing:**

- We ask that you not access testing if you have been diagnosed with Covid-19 within the past three months.
- In school testing is not available to individuals seeking to test out of quarantine early.
- In school testing should not be accessed to meet travel requirements.