

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The most recent [Ready Schools Safe Learners](#) (RSSL) document released from the Oregon Department of Education includes new information about COVID 19 testing of students and staff members. Dallas School District is required to offer testing access when our county COVID 19 cases exceed 200 per 100,000 county residents. Polk County has exceeded this level for the past two weeks, meaning we are now required to offer this test at each school site. This testing is optional, would be administered to a student only after receiving written authorization from the parent/guardian and would be used only in the following two scenarios:

- 1) When a student or staff member develops symptoms consistent with COVID-19 while at school. Symptoms include cough, fever (temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher) or chills, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, or a new loss of taste or smell. Note that muscle pain, headache, sore throat, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, new nasal congestion, and runny nose are also symptoms often associated with COVID-19.
- 2) When a student or staff member has been exposed to a case of COVID-19.

This is a test called Abbott BinaxNOW and would be self-administered by the student (with trained staff member supervision). The results of the test would be shared with the parent/guardian along with additional instructions from our school district nurse in partnership with the Polk County Health Department.

As per the RSSL, we will not be required to provide this testing option when the county case numbers are below 200 per 100,000 county residents.

Included with this letter is the Dallas School District COVID 19 Testing Request Form. Please complete this form and return it to the office of your child's school. Please contact your school administrator if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Andy Bellando

Superintendent