



February 24th, 2021

Dear TLCS Family,

TLCS is planning for the requirement to offer COVID-19 testing in our schools as directed by the Federal Government and ODE. According to the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), a K-12 school operating *outside* of the metrics for in-person instruction, must provide on-site COVID-19 testing no later than March 1, 2021.

Prior to last week, we communicated that we would not be providing this testing on-site. Since that time, the federal government and ODE have made it a requirement to provide opportunities for our students and our athletes. ODE has also changed the criteria, which has made the testing manageable for us to provide if families opt into the testing.

The testing is **only** for symptomatic and exposed students and staff. For example, if a student/staff member develops symptoms at school or when a cohort has been exposed. The testing will use the Abbott BinaxNOW rapid point-of-care antigen test, which takes 15 minutes to return a result. The tests are free and will be managed by a trained staff member at the school.

The test is self-administered. In order to test, we must have a signed consent form (enclosed with this letter) on file *prior* to testing. **This test is not required. If you do not complete the form, the school will not test your student.**

Symptomatic protocol remains the same – if a student has COVID-19 symptoms, they will be sent home from school and asked to quarantine according to the COVID-Scenarios guidance, regardless if they are tested or not. The test is simply one more tool we have to help reduce and mitigate the spread of COVID-19. If you have any questions, please email reach out to Anni Thiessen at athiessen@blachly.k12.or.us or call 541-925-3262.

Sincerely,

Adam Watkins
Superintendent
Blachly SD