



SALMON RIVER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

637 Co. Rt. 1, Fort Covington, New York 12937 • Tel: (518) 358-6600 • Fax (518) 358-9776

Dr. Stanley Harper
Superintendent

Angela Robert
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

December 15, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We understand that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has been hard on families. While we must prioritize the health and safety of students and staff, we also recognize the importance of keeping our students in school where they can learn in-person with their peers. At the direction of the State, our goal is to keep our schools safely open for in-person instruction and to continue to support social and emotional learning for all students.

Emerging research indicates that the school setting is safer than the general community because of the stringent health and safety protocols, which are strictly enforced. Since the reopening of school in the fall, we have made data-informed decisions by working collaboratively with the Franklin County Department of Public Health to assess the need for intermittent pivots to remote learning.

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo recently released [guidelines](#) for schools in designated yellow, orange and red micro-cluster zones in order to help keep schools open to in-person instruction. The guidelines require schools to complete a certain percentage of COVID-19 tests among in-person staff and students, with a continuation of vigilant symptom and exposure screening conducted daily. New York State will provide rapid test kits for schools to conduct the requisite testing.

While we have not yet been designated a micro-cluster zone, we are preemptively planning for the possibility that we will eventually reach the metrics to be designated. COVID-19 cases are climbing in our area and our average positivity rate and daily new case numbers are currently close to meeting the qualification for a yellow zone designation. Just as we meticulously planned for a safe reopening in the fall, we are planning carefully to continue to operate safely if we should receive a cluster zone designation.

To that end, we plan to conduct voluntary on-site testing under Franklin County Public Health's laboratory certification. We are working in partnership with Franklin County Public Health to train our school medical personnel to conduct rapid testing. FCPH will also offer technical support and advice. Our school nurses and administrators will oversee rapid testing of students and staff.

Under a Yellow Zone designation, **with voluntary parent/guardian consent**, your child may be randomly selected to receive a free Binax diagnostic test for the COVID-19 virus. The testing process will involve a trained staff member inserting a small swab, similar to a Q-Tip, into the front of the nose. This is a simple, quick, painless, shallow nasal swab test. Results are available in 15 minutes. Notifications of negative results will be sent to you via email. Positive test results will prompt isolation procedures per our reopening plans, and an immediate phone call notification to parents/guardians.

Please read through the testing consent form included in this packet and submit it to your child's school nurse by (DATE) .Our school nurses are as follows:

- High School, Nurse: Xochitl Uribe-Rios Xrios@srk12.org
- Middle School, Nurse: Jacqueline Bryant Jbryant@srk12.org
- SRE, Nurse Melanie: Cunningham Mcunningham@srk12.org
- SRMS, Nurse Tanya: Lockwood Tlockwood@srk12.org

For anyone interested in learning more about the BinaxNow COVID-19 Ag CARD information can be found at the links below.

<https://www.abbott.com/BinaxNOW-Test-NAVICA-App.html#/>

<https://www.globalpointofcare.abbott/en/support/product-installation-training/navica-brand/navica-binaxnow-ag-training.html>

Please contact your child's building principal if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued cooperation and support as we do our best to keep our schools safe.

Dr. Harper