



Hampden Academy

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Barbara Parent RN
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5/24/2021

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Thank you for your continued partnership during this unprecedented school year. In an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19, we have been working closely with the Maine Department of Education to implement a free COVID-19 pooled testing program for students and staff at Hampden Academy. We will be piloting the program with our senior class during the last 2 weeks of school, with the goal of expanding it to all RSU22 schools in the fall.

The purpose of this letter is to ask permission to regularly test your child as part of the pooled testing program. Pooled testing involves collecting several individuals' test swabs together into one "pool" and then testing the pooled sample for COVID-19. This approach increases the number of individuals that can be tested at one time and allows us to regularly test our school community for COVID-19. If at least 30% of students and staff participate in the program, it will also allow us to eliminate some of our social distancing requirements.

Pooled testing will be performed once per week, using a shallow nasal self-swab for all participating students and staff members. We will receive the pool results within 24-48 hours. If the result of the pool is negative, then all individuals are presumed to not have COVID-19. If the pool returns one or more positive results, all individuals in the pool will be retested using the Abbott BinaxNOW Rapid Antigen Diagnostic Test. You will be notified if your child requires follow-up testing. Individuals with no symptoms and a negative rapid test will no longer be required to quarantine. Hampden Academy will report all follow-up test results to the Maine CDC's Redcap reporting system.

To allow your student to participate in the COVID-19 Pooled Testing Program, including consent to pool test, consent for follow up Abbott BinaxNow Rapid Antigen testing, and consent to share test result information with the Maine CDC, please complete the attached permit and return it to the Hampden Academy Health Office.

Permits must be returned by Thursday, May 27 to allow testing to begin June 1.

We are extremely grateful to our students, staff and families for their flexibility and resilience, as we navigate this school year. It takes all of us working together to contain the spread of this virus. RSU 22 is excited to add pooled testing as another mitigation strategy for our school community.

If you have questions regarding the COVID-19 Pooled Testing Program, please reach out to the Hampden Academy school nurse.

Thank you,

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