



Franklin Township Public Schools

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

2301 Route 27

Somerset, New Jersey 08873

Dr. John Ravally
Superintendent of Schools

Phone: 732-873-2400 ext. 312
Fax: 732-873-8416

October 14, 2021

Dear Franklin Township Public School Community,

I hope all is well. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, Somerset County and its schools are committed to safe in-person learning for students, teachers, and staff.

This can only be achieved if school staff, parents, and students work together to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in schools. As part of this effort, the Franklin Township Public Schools is pleased to announce that we, along with schools across Somerset County will be partnering with New Jersey Department of Health's testing partner Mirimus, Inc., to offer the County's COVID-19 screening testing program. There is **no direct cost** to program participants.

The program relies on:

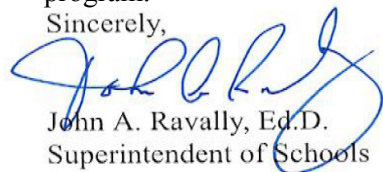
- Mandatory weekly testing of all unvaccinated teachers and staff;
- Recommended voluntary weekly testing of all students, teachers, and staff regardless of vaccination status.

This method will allow early detection of COVID-19 in pre-symptomatic or asymptomatic individuals. Early detection means more effective risk mitigation strategies preventing the virus from spreading in schools. Preventing school outbreaks is key to ensuring our schools stay open to provide the education and support our children need.

All students, teachers, and staff are highly encouraged to participate in this school-based COVID-19 screening testing program, however only unvaccinated teachers and staff are mandated to test under the executive order. The program will use non-invasive, self-collected saliva samples that are appropriate and painless for all ages. Samples will be processed using accurate and reliable PCR analysis—the gold standard of COVID-19 testing—to identify positive cases.

[Click here to read and complete the consent and HIPPA release forms](#) for each student in your household (or for yourself, if teacher/staff). If you are a staff member who must test weekly please complete forms as soon as possible. We are scheduled to begin this program with Mirimus on Monday, October 25th. Therefore, in order to comply with the Executive Order 253 (EO 253) those unvaccinated staff that must test beginning the week of October 18th will do so at the Central Jersey Urgent Care in Somerset as previously arranged. For those not required to test per EO 253, you can provide consent at any point if you elect to participate and once your consent is received, an administrator from your building will be in touch with more details regarding the testing program.

Sincerely,



John A. Ravally, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

The New Jersey Schools COVID-19 Screening Testing Program is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$15,800,820 with 100 percent funded by the CDC/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by the CDC/HHS, or the U.S. Government. For more information, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/>.