

Baltimore City Public Schools

Parent/Guardian Consent Form for In-Person School and COVID-19 Awareness Agreement

More than ever before, we all – individually and collectively – share responsibility for the well-being of our students, staff, families, and neighbors. This is particularly true when it comes to in-person learning opportunities. In order to keep our community safe, City Schools has developed robust health and safety protocols for in-person learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, based on the latest medical research, best practices, and input from the Baltimore City Health Department, our public health advisors, and other stakeholders. All schools are implementing the five key mitigation strategies recommended by the CDC for in-person learning including masking, social distancing, hand washing, cleaning and disinfecting, and contact tracing. City Schools has also invested in additional mitigation strategies including air filtration systems, desk shields, daily health screenings, and COVID-19 testing. These protocols are described in detail in the [City Schools Health and Safety Guide](#).

As a valued member of our City Schools community, I commit to do my part to follow these protocols, so that we can help all our students and staff be well and thrive. In addition, I agree to:

- Follow all rules for my child’s participation in school and school activities in-person (“in-person school”).
- Collaborate with school staff to help ensure that my child follows all rules for wearing a mask or face-covering, washing hands frequently, and maintaining appropriate social distance, as set forth in [City Schools Health and Safety Guide](#) and the [Code of Student Conduct](#).
- Monitor my child’s health every day when they attend in-person school.
- Report to City Schools if my child has a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19.
- **Not** send my child to in-person school if they have COVID-19 or symptoms of a COVID-19 like illness, are waiting for test results, or have been in close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes total over a 24-hour period) in the past 14 days with anyone diagnosed with, or suspected of having, COVID-19.
- Ensure that my child participates in City Schools COVID-19 Testing Program. (See back for details on the testing program.)
- Ensure that, if my child becomes ill while attending in-person school, my child is picked up from school promptly after receiving an on-site COVID-19 test through the partnership with the University of Maryland Medical System.
- I acknowledge that my child cannot return to in-person activities until they receive a negative COVID-19 test or are released to return to in-person activity from an authorized health care provider.

I understand that failure to comply with these rules may endanger our entire community and require City Schools to take steps necessary to protect the welfare of my child, other students, and staff and may result in my child’s removal from in-person learning. For information on the risks associated with COVID-19, visit: www.baltimorecityschools.org/safety-procedures. I acknowledge that I have independently reviewed the risks of exposure to COVID-19 in light of my child’s and my family’s personal health conditions, and I have decided to allow my child to attend in-person school with full knowledge of these risks and expectations described on this form.

Student Name: _____

School Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Printed Name: _____

Parent/ Guardian Phone Number: _____

I understand that I may sign this form and return it to my school, or I may submit this form electronically, and that by typing my name and date, I intend that electronic submission of this form constitutes and is the equivalent of my personal signature.

City Schools On-Site COVID-19 Testing Program

Baltimore City Public Schools has developed a robust on-site COVID-19 testing program to promote health and safety. City Schools' testing program is **convenient, safe, and free of charge**. The program includes:

Symptomatic Testing (for all schools and all grades): Students and staff with symptoms of a COVID-19-like illness, as well as close contacts, are eligible for testing on-site. Trained staff will insert a small swab, similar to a Q-Tip, into the nose of the individual with symptoms. School staff will call their parent/guardian to pick their child up promptly after their test. Parents who are on site at the time their child is tested may also be tested along with their child. Students and staff typically receive results within 24-48 hours after the test.

COVID-19 Screening Testing for Staff and Students

Schools will participate in one of the two testing programs outlined below, depending on the school's needs. More detailed information is available at <https://www.baltimorecityschools.org/covid-screens>.

Saliva-based PCR testing:

Students and staff are tested regularly regardless of whether they have symptoms. Each individual puts saliva (spit) in a tube, which is collected and sent to a central laboratory for testing. Students and staff typically have access to results within 24-48 hours of the test.

Pooled Testing:

Students and staff are tested regularly, regardless of whether they have symptoms. These tests are self-administered (unless the student needs assistance) with the individual inserting a small swab, similar to a Q-Tip, into the front of the nose. Nasal swabs from a learning pod or pods are combined and tested in a group at a central laboratory. The test detects whether the virus that causes COVID-19 is present in that pooled sample. Pooled testing does not identify any specific individual who may have COVID-19 or collect any participant's personal information. Families are notified within 24-48 hours after the test, if their student's group includes a positive test. If COVID-19 is identified in the pod, additional individual symptomatic testing will be offered.

Note: The pooled test is not required to be approved or authorized by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA), and this test is not an FDA approved or authorized test nor a medical diagnostic test. The test providers are the University of Maryland Medical System and the University of Maryland Pathology Associates (symptomatic testing); ShieldT3 (saliva-based PCR testing); and Concentric by Ginkgo (pooled testing). Any additions or changes to the test providers will be shared with parents and posted at <https://www.baltimorecityschools.org/covid-screens>.

By signing the front of this consent form, I voluntarily agree to have my child participate in the City Schools COVID-19 testing program and I authorize the collection of my student's nasal and/or saliva swab sample for the public health purposes of the program. I understand that:

- The potential risks of nasal swab collection, if performed as instructed, include discomfort from the insertion of the swabs. Any irritation is expected to be brief.
- The testing program will regularly occur during the school day when parents are not present.
- Samples will be tested in laboratories by test providers working under agreement with City Schools. Results will be shared with City Schools, students' parents/guardians, and test providers, and they may also be shared with the Maryland Department of Health and the Baltimore City Health Department but **only** for public health purposes (such as notifying close contacts of your child if they have been exposed to COVID-19, and taking other steps to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 in your school community) and in accordance with all applicable laws, Board policies, and City Schools regulation protecting student privacy and the security of your child's data.
- As with any COVID-19 test, there is the potential for incorrect (false positive or false negative) results.
- No medical research will be conducted as part of this program. City Schools and its contractors monitor aspects of the COVID-19 virus, such as tracking viral mutations by sequencing viruses and microbes in samples collected through the program, for epidemiological and public health purposes.
- City Schools and the test providers are not, and are not acting as, my child's medical provider, and this testing does not replace treatment by my child's medical provider, and I will follow up with a medical provider to determine appropriate action with regard to my child's test results.

OPT-OUT OF CITY SCHOOLS ON-SITE COVID-19 TESTING PROGRAM

If you do not want your child to participate in City Schools' testing program, you may decline to participate. However, you will be required to have your child tested through another organization within 24 hours of when they would have been tested through the City Schools program (weekly or biweekly) and provide City Schools with the test results. For details on how to opt-out of City Schools testing program, please reach out to your student's principal to request an opt-out form.