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Lisa Brady
Superintendent

To: Parents/Guardians, Teachers, and Staff of Dobbs Ferry School District,

From: Dobbs Ferry School District

Dear Dobbs Ferry School District Community,

The start of the school year is upon us! As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, Westchester County and its schools are committed to a safe return to in-person learning for students, teachers, and staff.

This can only be achieved if the County, public and private school systems, parents, and students work together to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in schools and keep one another safe. This is especially important given the rise of the highly contagious Delta variant.

As part of this effort, Dobbs Ferry School District is pleased to announce that we, along with schools across Westchester County, will be partnering with Westchester County Department of Health's testing partner Quadrant Biosciences to offer the County's FREE COVID-19 screening testing program.

The program relies on two testing strategies:

- Voluntary arrival testing of all students, teachers, and staff within the first two weeks of school
- Voluntary weekly testing of 20% of all students, teachers, and staff thereafter

This method will allow early detection of COVID-19 in pre-symptomatic or asymptomatic individuals. Early detection means we can better stop 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 (vaccinated AND unvaccinated) are highly encouraged to participate in this free, school-based COVID-19 screening testing program. 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.

Please read and complete the attached consent forms for each student in your household (or for yourself, if teacher/staff). In order to participate in arrival testing during the first weeks of school, we encourage you to consent as soon as possible. Otherwise, you can consent at any point for enrollment in the weekly 20% screening testing program. Once you consent, Dobbs Ferry School District will be in touch with more details regarding the testing program.

Thank you,

Lisa Brady, Ed. D.
Superintendent

CC: Dr. Sherlita Amler, MD, Commissioner of Health, Westchester County Department of Health

The Westchester County 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/>.