



BYRAM HILLS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

10 TRIPP LANE ARMONK, NY 10504

September 14, 2021

To the Byram Hills School 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 safe 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.

As part of this effort, Byram Hills is pleased to announce that we, along with schools across Westchester County, will be partnering with Westchester County Department of Health's testing partner Mirimus, Inc., to offer the County's FREE COVID-19 screening testing program. Mirimus is the company that Byram Hills has been contracting with for all of our saliva testing. Moving forward, the County will assume financial responsibility for the testing.

The program relies on two testing strategies:

- Voluntary testing of all students, teachers, and staff within the first few 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 (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 to identify positive cases.

Please read and complete the [student consent form](#) for each student in your household. In order to participate in testing next week (September 21st), **please complete the consent by 5 pm on Friday, September 17th**. Otherwise, you can consent at any point for enrollment in the weekly 20% screening testing program that will take place thereafter. Once you consent, Byram Hills will be in touch with more details regarding the testing program. Please also read the [FAQ information](#) provided by the Westchester County Department of Health.

Thank you,

Jen Lamia, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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

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