

January 11, 2022

Dear Fond du Lac Head Start/Child Care Families:

While we had all hoped that the pandemic would be in a different phase this school year, the unseen benefit is that we know what steps to take to minimize the spread of COVID-19 in our schools to protect in-person learning.

Our number one goal is to help ensure a safe and healthy school year for our students and staff. We will now be able to add COVID-19 testing to our mitigation strategies in our effort to keep our classrooms open.

The Minnesota Department of Education and Minnesota Department of Health have improved their first-in-the-nation statewide COVID-19 testing resources and we are committed to using every tool at our disposal.

The state has given schools the flexibility to develop a COVID-19 testing plan that fits our school community. We have decided to offer:

- 1.) Cue Testing:** Cue tests are individual, diagnostic, rapid molecular COVID-19 tests that use a nasal swab. Cue may be used for people who are symptomatic or asymptomatic. The nasal swab is administered by a nurse or other trained staff member for anyone ages 2 and older. The test will be conducted at school and results are available within 20 minutes of processing. Tests will be administered at school if a student develops symptoms during the school day and after permission has been obtained by a parent/guardian's signature on the attached Fond du Lac Head Start Programs COVID-19 Testing Consent Form.
- 2.) BD Veritor At-Home COVID-19 Test:** These tests are individual rapid antigen tests that can be sent home with the student (one package contains 2 kits). The tests use a nasal swab and can be used for children as young as two years of age. Results are visually displayed on the test 15 minutes after the test is performed. Even with a negative test result, a student who is experiencing symptoms should retest and should not return to school until symptoms have improved and the student has been fever free for 24 hours.

Please sign and return the attached consent form if you grant Fond du Lac Head Start Programs permission to administer COVID-19 testing as recommended for your student. Thank you for your continued understanding and patience as we navigate this school year. If you have any questions, please call (218)878-8100.

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Marilu Johnsen, Director