

October 15, 2021

Dear Brewster School District Parents,

In collaboration with the Washington State Department of Health, the Brewster School District would like to announce that it will be participating in a state-funded effort to provide free, voluntary COVID-19 testing to exposed and symptomatic students of parents who provide prior consent through the Learn to Return program.

Here is how the free, voluntary COVID-19 testing protocol works:

- Parents must have completed the consent form available at www.brewsterbears.org or manually, prior to testing, providing consent for their student(s) to be tested for COVID-19 when exposed or symptomatic or for screening purposes for high impact sports play.
- Student(s) whose parents have provided consent, are displaying COVID-19 symptoms, and/or believe they may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, will have access to COVID-19 testing, administered by a BSD School Nurse or trained administrator on our school campus.
- If the test is positive, the student will be asked to isolate for at least 10 days and until symptoms have resolved for 24 hours before returning to school. Positive results are required to be reported to Okanogan County Department of Health.
- If the test is negative, the student will be asked to quarantine until symptoms have improved, then return to school. A return to school date will be given.

The COVID-19 tests are a quick and painless shallow nasal swab collection that can be self-administered under observation of a trained test administrator. For all results sent to an outside laboratory, such as through PCR testing, parents/guardians will be notified of all results whether positive or negative. For results determined onsite, such as through rapid antigen testing, only positive results will be shared.

This testing protocol is one of the district's many strategies aimed at providing containment and control of the virus. As stated by our state and local public health officials, when combined with vaccination (for those who are eligible), proper ventilation, mask-wearing, distancing, and good hygiene, the testing of individuals displaying COVID-like symptoms provides an added layer of protection, dramatically decreasing the risks of infection and the spread of the virus at school and in the community.

If you wish for your student(s) to be able to participate, we ask that you complete the attached document or online form at www.brewsterbears.org and return to your student(s) school secretary.

NOTE: The WIAA requires twice weekly screening COVID-19 testing for all athletes participating in high-risk sports (basketball, wrestling, and indoor cheer.)

Thank you for your continued support.

Regards,

Nicole Smith, RN ~ School Nurse
Elvia Martinez, RN ~ School Nurse
Sara De Dios ~ Health Room Assistant