



HOW WILL TESTING BE CONDUCTED, AND WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE IS A POSITIVE RESULT?

STEP ONE

Once a week on Mondays, starting December 7, and ending March 29, students and faculty will receive a testing kit in a bag labeled with the individual's name. The kit contains a barcoded sample collection tube, straw, and alcohol wipes for sanitizing after sample collection.

Chatham Day School's planned testing schedule through the December break is as follows:

Kit Distribution Day: Friday, December 4

Sample Collection Day: Monday, December 7

Kit Distribution Day: Friday, December 11

Sample Collection Day: Monday, December 14

STEP TWO

On Monday mornings, individuals will safely collect saliva samples at home immediately after waking up. Please make sure to collect enough saliva in the provided vial. *Do not eat, drink, smoke, chew gum, or brush your teeth at least 30 minutes prior to providing your sample. Mouthwash should not be used for at least 2 hours prior. All this is critical to the viability of the sample collected.*

Here are some helpful tips for collecting saliva samples:

- Saliva samples must be collected first thing in the morning, before eating, drinking, or brushing teeth.
- Plan for at least 15-20 minutes to collect the sample so your child does not feel rushed.
- Please see the Mirimus video or Saliva Sample Collection Instructions for further guidance.
- A light tap on the tube may help decrease the bubbles from the saliva, providing a more accurate volume reading.
- Ask your child to "pool" saliva in their mouth to help avoid "bubbly saliva," which will help capture more of their saliva in the sample tube.
- If your child is having difficulty generating saliva, try rubbing the outside of their cheeks, making chewing motions, imagining or smelling sour foods like lemons, or their favorite food.

For a sample to be considered viable, it must be at least 1.0 mL—the vial must be at least half-full. An insufficient sample amount may cause the sample to be unusable. If this is the case, in order to return to campus you must provide negative results from an independent PCR test. The straw can be used to help guide saliva into the sample tube for collection. Please make sure that the cap, not the straw, is securely tightened after collection. All samples must be submitted by 8:30 a.m. on Mondays, beginning on December 7.

STEP THREE

On Monday morning, students will bring the barcoded collection tubes back to campus, where they will be collected at drop-off at a designated spot. All faculty will drop their saliva sample in the Nurse's office. All students and faculty must provide a saliva sample at that time in order to remain on campus.

STEP FOUR

The same day, within a few hours, the collected samples will be delivered to the lab in Brooklyn for testing. The lab will then test the samples using "pooled testing," meaning the lab will group individual samples into batches of up to 24. A small amount of each individual sample in the batch will be mixed together to create a combined pooled sample. If COVID-19 is not detected in the combined pooled sample, no further action is required. If COVID-19 is detected in the combined pooled sample, the lab will use the same sample to conduct additional tests in sub-groups of two samples each. When a definitive positive result emerges in those groupings of two, the barcodes associated with the two saliva samples will be reported to David Buffum, and he, or his designee, will confidentially contact the individual/families. Submitted saliva samples are only used for COVID-19 testing, and all saliva samples are destroyed by the lab after one week.

STEP FIVE

David Buffum, or his designee, will reach out to the individuals associated with COVID-19-detected pairs. Both individuals in the pair are considered potentially positive for COVID-19. In an abundance of caution, both will be initially required to isolate, and their close contacts will initially be considered 'primary contacts.' In accordance with local and CDC recommendations, any primary contacts of potentially positive COVID-19 cases will be required to quarantine for 14 days. Both individuals in the pool of two will be asked to provide consent for PCR (polymerase chain reaction) diagnostic tests to be run on the same sample to determine individual positivity. Due to regulatory requirements, each individual must log-in, complete a health questionnaire, and provide consent through Meenta, Mirimus Labs' third-party results-reporting platform. In the unfortunate event that your child is involved in a saliva pairing that tests positive, we will be in touch and go over this section in greater detail.

INFORMATION, INSTRUCTIONS, AND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHY IS CHATHAM DAY SCHOOL STARTING TESTING NOW?

Chatham Day School continues to do all that we can to reduce the risk of the spread of COVID-19, and we reevaluate protocols regularly based on guidance from the CDC, health department, and health professionals. In response to the rising prevalence of the virus in our region and with the goal of keeping CDS open to in-person learning for as long as safely possible, we have decided to implement weekly testing. Testing will allow us to better identify, isolate, and contact trace confirmed positive and presumed positive COVID-19 cases in our community.

HOW IS USER PRIVACY ENSURED?

At CDS, the barcode corresponding to the sample will be connected with an individual's name. The name is not transferred to Mirimus. Mirimus will never know the identity of those being tested, as they only receive barcoded vials. Therefore, the data portal that will be used meets and exceeds all HIPAA privacy protections afforded to every individual since no Protected Health Information (PHI) will be shared. Your saliva samples will be used for COVID-19 testing only, and for Mirimus to make improvements to their diagnostic products. Only approved CDS administrators will be able to view the pool results.

If a definitive diagnostic test is required (for individuals in pools of two that contain a positive), a distinct HIPAA compliant system will be utilized that will also protect PHI.

WHO WILL BE TESTED?

CDS will be testing all K-8 students and faculty who are on campus. If a family wishes not to participate in the testing program, they can opt for online learning for the duration of the testing period (through 3/29). A student or staff member who does not participate in weekly testing will not be permitted on campus until the results of the next on-campus testing opportunity.

WHY ARE THE EC STUDENTS NOT BEING TESTED?

Mirimus has advised that the test is not appropriate for students below Kindergarten. It is often difficult for the youngest students to produce the necessary amount of saliva, and many vials are rendered untestable by the laboratory. Additionally, the leaders of our medical committee have stated that small children have a much lower risk of spreading the virus. The teachers at the Early Childhood level will participate in the testing, and we will continue to practice all of our other safety protocols in that division, as well.

WHAT EXACTLY IS POOLED TESTING?

Instead of testing each individual student and employee separately, which is very time consuming and very expensive, samples can be combined—or pooled—to cut down on the number of overall tests. Mirimus can test up to 24 samples at once. If one pool tests positive, the entire pool is tested again using the same samples in smaller pools, and Mirimus can work with us to narrow the positive to a single individual. Pooled sample testing is encouraged and supported by the FDA with proper validation.

HOW RELIABLE IS THE TEST?

The saliva test's accuracy is virtually identical to that of individual PCR (polymerase chain reaction) tests, which are considered the 'gold standard' of COVID-19 tests currently available. Mirimus has conducted experiments comparing results from pooled and individual tests of the same individuals from a very close point in time and found a 97 percent match. Retesting exactly the same samples with the corresponding individual test yielded a 100 percent match. Pooled sample testing is encouraged and supported by the FDA with proper validation.

IS THERE A POTENTIAL FOR FALSE POSITIVES?

The test cannot be guaranteed to be 100% accurate, though false positives are rare. The test utilized by Mirimus Labs detects three different unique viral RNA templates. For a positive result, at least two RNA templates must be detected. The protocols used substantially decrease the likelihood of false positives by detecting dead viral particles.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS TESTING?

There is no cost to families. Chatham Day School will cover all associated testing costs. Families and employees will be responsible for the cost of any other COVID-19 tests they may choose to get on their own.

IF CDS IS TESTING ALL STUDENTS AND FACULTY, DO WE STILL NEED TO WEAR MASKS, SOCIAL DISTANCE, ETC.?

Yes! The implementation of the pool tests is intended to supplement the other procedures and protocols we have in place. Given the high prevalence of infection in our communities, following infection control practices such as masking, distancing, and handwashing are more important than ever. Using pooled testing in addition to following safety recommendations (both in and out of school) will be an excellent additive layer of protection over the winter months and will help keep our community safe.

HOW WILL POOLS BE CREATED?

Staff and students from the same classes and cohorts will be grouped together as efficiently as possible. Again, the maximum pool size number is 24.