



## COVID-19 Testing Site at BESC - Opens Tomorrow

Dear Colleagues:

With the rapid spread of the Omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus, Portland Public Schools is adding a COVID-19 testing site for school-based staff who are serving students in-person and have been recently exposed to COVID-19, are fully vaccinated and remain asymptomatic.

Starting tomorrow January 5 (6:30 a.m.), and running through at least January 28, we will host free COVID-19 testing at the BESC (501 N. Dixon Street). This COVID-19 testing site will be open Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 9 a.m., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., subject to the availability of tests.

### How do I get tested?

This testing site is a drop-in with no sign up necessary. Please note that there is a national shortage of COVID-19 tests, and we therefore ask that individuals who are planning on visiting the BESC testing site meet the following:

- You must be school-based, serve students in person and hold a PPS ID badge. This includes: classroom teachers, counselors, TOSAs, COSAs, QMHPs, school administrators, SMSs, paraeducators, special education staff, educational assistants, front office staff, custodians, nutrition services staff, bus drivers, RESJ partners, and SUN-site staff.
- You are fully vaccinated (at least 2 of 3 doses of Pfizer and/or Moderna, or at least 1 dose of Johnson & Johnson/Janssen)
- You have had a recent exposure (and are 5-7 days from the day of that exposure)
- You are asymptomatic and are NOT experiencing any COVID symptoms

THIS IS **NOT** FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE NO KNOWN EXPOSURE AND ARE SIMPLY CURIOUS ABOUT THEIR COVID STATUS.

### What do I need?

You will need to bring your PPS ID badge with you, know the day you were exposed, and attest that you are not experiencing any COVID symptoms. You must wear a well-fitting mask over your nose and mouth and follow all COVID safety protocols.

### What can I expect?

We recognize that many people will need to be tested for COVID-19, and we will be limiting the number of people allowed in the testing area and in the BESC foyer, to ensure social distancing. When you enter through the main doors, the front desk safety team will either direct you to the testing area or take your name if the testing site is

over capacity. For those who cannot be served immediately, you will be placed on a wait list in order of arrival and be directed to wait in your car or outside. You will be contacted as soon as it is your turn.

Once you enter the testing area, you will be asked to sign a consent form for testing. This form is shared with our public health partners at the Oregon Health Authority, which is the testing site's official provider.

The test will involve a nasal swab. You will gently swab the inner part of your lower nostril and directions will be provided. You will be asked to remain in the testing area for 15 minutes to await results and any next steps depending on the outcome of the test results.

**How will I know if there are no more tests? Tests are currently limited, and we are not able to guarantee capacity.** We will update availability of tests and any changes to the testing site operating hours through this [link](#) on our webpage (Note: you will need to log in to access; will go live tomorrow). Please check this site before making the trip to the central office, and please be patient as we work to offer as many tests as we can.

**Need more information?** Please contact [Betse Thielman](#), PPS's Health Services Manager at [ethielman@pps.net](mailto:ethielman@pps.net).

We continue to urge all members of our community that are eligible to please get vaccinated and boosted against the virus. This remains the best way to limit the impact of the virus. Thank you for your patience and understanding and for doing your part to keep our community safe. We appreciate your support as we navigate this challenging time for our community together.

**Brenda Martinek,**  
Chief of Student Support Services  
Portland Public Schools