

Project: ACE IT  
Assisting Childhood  
Education through  
Increased Testing

BUCKS COUNTY  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT



Bucks County  
Intermediate Unit



Chester County  
Intermediate Unit

A Dynamic Educational Service Agency



DCIU

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
INTERMEDIATE UNIT 23



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF  
PHILADELPHIA

Children's Hospital  
of Philadelphia

# Rapid COVID-19 Testing @LMSD

DECEMBER 21, 2020



# OVERVIEW of ACE-IT

As part of a joint safety effort led by the Montgomery County Office of Public Health with the support of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, LMSD will be one of the first public school districts in Pennsylvania to take part in a large-scale rapid COVID-19 testing program referred to as "ACE-IT" (Assisting Childhood Education through Increased Testing).

Beginning in early January, 2021, this program will enable regular testing of asymptomatic staff and identified students in order to reduce the risk of disease spread among our community members.

The program primarily uses BinaxNOW tests, which provide results in 15 minutes and are administered using a nasal swab in the front area of the nostril. This testing can be conducted by trained LMSD staff at each school location.



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# OVERVIEW of ACE-IT

Initially, LMSD plans to conduct two types of testing:

- **WEEKLY ASSURANCE TESTING:** The priority usage of the tests will be for the purpose of weekly assurance testing. Our goal is to test all onsite staff and identified students on a weekly basis. Based upon testing volume and program capacity, we will prioritize programs where social distancing cannot be maintained to the extent recommended as well as target buildings with higher case incidents and/or outbreaks.
- **SYMPTOMATIC TESTING DURING WORK/SCHOOL DAY:** The District may conduct testing on staff who present symptoms of COVID-19 while at school or on District property.

All test administrators must receive prior authorization from a parent/guardian for any individual under 18 years of age to be tested.



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# OBJECTIVES/TIMELINE\*\*\*

- ❑ December 29-30 – Small Sample Testing @ DAO/LMHS (50-60 participants max.)
- ❑ Week of January 4 – Testing becomes available for ALL LMSD staff working onsite.
- ❑ Week of January 11 – Begin weekly testing for all staff willing to commit to program requirements.
- ❑ Week of January 18 – Testing becomes available for identified students in high school and middle school.
- ❑ Week of January 25 – Ongoing weekly testing of committed staff plus identified students in high school and middle school
- ❑ Week of February 1 – Testing becomes available for identified students K-5
- ❑ Week of February 8 – Ongoing weekly testing of committed staff plus identified students K-12

\*\*\*Timeline contingent upon completion of essential tasks such as staff training and data reporting system.



# NEXT STEPS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We will continue to refine the parameters of this testing program with LMSD based upon inventory and need. This is a large-scale, expedited effort involving many moving parts such as training, data collection & reporting, scheduling & registration platform implementation, facility readiness, test acquisition and storage, etc.

We will share additional information about this program in the near future and provide opportunities for families and staff to hear more specific information about testing as we move forward.

We are grateful for the many individuals and organizations making this large-scale testing a reality for us. Locally, this effort has been led by the Montgomery County Office of Public Health with the support of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia together with other local and national partners.



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