

Email to Parents from School Leaders

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We want to announce that Monte Vista School District has enrolled in the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's free, voluntary, and statewide COVID-19 school testing program for the 2021-22 school year. The program is available to all students, regardless of vaccination status or presence of symptoms. We believe this is a critical step in keeping our students healthy while allowing us to continue in-person learning. Testing will be done at your child's school once per week.

There are incentives available to students who choose to participate but **we want you to know this is not mandatory**. Through Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Reopening Schools award funds, students are eligible to receive an incentive, regardless of their current vaccination status. A participating student will receive \$25 for the first COVID-19 test that is administered to them through this program. A student can then receive \$10 for every subsequent test that is administered each week (at a maximum of one incentive allowed per week). **Students participating in this weekly COVID-19 testing program will also be exempt from quarantine with routine classroom exposures.** We are still working closely with Rio Grande County Public Health and they have recommended this program as an additional safety measure for our staff and students. The safety and wellbeing of students and educators is our top priority.

We would like to encourage you to sign your student up for this program if you feel it would benefit you and your student. All students under 18 **must** obtain parental/guardian consent to participate in this voluntary program. Consent can be given at the links below.

Testing will be Monday mornings at Marsh School from 7:00 am-10:00am. If you would like your Marsh student to participate please complete the consent forms at the following links: [Marsh School](#)(English) or [Marsh School](#)(Spanish).

At Bill Metz Elementary testing will be Monday afternoons from 1:00pm-4:00pm. If you would like your BME student to participate please complete the consent forms at the following links: [Bill Metz Elementary](#)(English) or [Bill Metz Elementary](#) (Spanish).

Monte Vista Middle testing takes place Tuesdays from 1:00pm-3:00pm. If you would like your Middle School student to participate please complete the consent forms at the following links: [Middle School](#)(English) or [Middle School](#)(Spanish).

HighSchool and Delta Center will be testing on Tuesdays from 7:30am-10:30am. If you would like your High School or Delta Center students to participate please complete the consent forms at the following links: [High School](#)(English) or [High School](#)(Spanish).

We want your students to feel safe at school and this program will help us curb the spread of COVID-19. This COVID-19 testing program serves as another preventative measure against the virus so we can rapidly detect infection and asymptomatic outbreaks and help minimize disruptions and ensure in-person learning.

For additional questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact Briana Villagomez for Marsh and BME students at 719-852-4041 and Marka Clark for Middle School, High School and Delta Center Students at 719-852-5984.

Thank you for helping keep our kids and teachers safe.