

River Forest Public Schools

Dear District 90 Families, Faculty, and Staff,

District 90 is providing an optional COVID-19 screening test for unvaccinated middle school students beginning the week of September 20. Parental consent is required for students who plan to participate in the screening test. Vaccinated students are not currently eligible for the program

Along with unvaccinated students, Roosevelt students participating in “elevated risk” extracurricular programs, such as band, chorus, and interscholastic basketball or volleyball, will be required to participate in the weekly screening program. The weekly screening initiative will occur during periods of high transmission of the coronavirus. State and local public health agencies determine the community’s transmission levels.

Please download and read Superintendent Ed Condon’s full letter that is attached below and titled, [COVID-19 Screening Testing for Middle School Students](#).

For students to receive the screening test, parental consent must be provided through this electronic link: [PowerSchool Link](#) and by using a browser from a computer or laptop. The link will direct individuals to the secure, password-protected PowerSchool portal. It will also enable families to upload proof of vaccination for middle school students or provide consent for screening testing of unvaccinated students. Directions for consenting to the COVID-19 screening test and uploading proof of vaccination can be found on the attached document below and titled, [How to Complete the D90 COVID Vaccination Form](#).

Dr. Condon’s letter goes into greater detail about the screening testing program. Families who wish to participate are asked to provide consent no later than September 6.

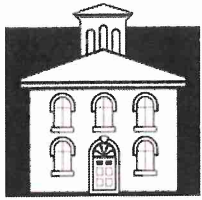
Thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate the evolving situation regarding COVID-19 and the Delta variant.

With warm regards,

Dawne Simmons
Communications and Community Outreach Coordinator

[COVID-19 Screening Testing for Middle School Students](#)

[How to Complete the D90 COVID Vaccination Form](#)



River Forest
Public Schools

Administration Building
7776 Lake Street
River Forest, IL 60305
Phone: 708-771-8282
Fax: 708-771-8291

August 30, 2021

Topic: *COVID-19 Screening Testing for Middle School Students*

Dear District 90 Families and Students,

To further strengthen safety protocols, District 90 is providing an optional COVID-19 screening testing program for unvaccinated middle school students in collaboration with covid-Shield, a testing partner from the University of Illinois. This screening testing program is optional for any unvaccinated middle school student who has parental consent to participate and will provide a weekly saliva screening test administered at school. Barring unexpected delays, the testing is anticipated to start the week of September 20. The program will be at no-cost to participating families since the testing program is fully funded through the State of Illinois. Vaccinated students are not currently eligible for the program.

Screening Testing Details

This program will require that families “opt-in.” No student will be permitted to participate in the screening testing program without parental consent. Parental consent must be provided through this electronic link: [PowerSchool Link](#). The link will direct individuals to the secure, password-protected PowerSchool portal.

Trained medical professional partners will conduct the sample collection during the school day. These technicians will be sourced through the University of Illinois covid-Shield program, and monitored by our D90 Infection Control Officer. The program will provide families with access to a secure portal through which test results can be accessed. In most cases, screening test results will be available in approximately 24 hours, though short delays may occur. Families will not need to monitor the portal since D90 school nursing team members will contact parents in the case of a positive COVID-19 test result. As with any positive COVID-19 test result or related symptoms, any affected student would be referred to the family physician for follow-up treatment, required to quarantine during recovery, and be eligible for remote instruction with the student’s classroom teacher(s) during the quarantine period.

Families who wish to participate are asked to provide consent no later than September 6. It will be possible to enroll after that date, but later enrollment may require a short waiting period while the student is rostered individually to the program. Families will also have the ability to withdraw from participation at any time by contacting the District D90 Infection Control Officer, Sam Martini (martinis@district90.org).

Middle School Students Participating in “Elevated Risk” Activities

At the recommendation of the CDC and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), students electing to participate in identified “elevated risk” extracurricular programs, including band, chorus, and interscholastic basketball or volleyball, will be required to participate in the weekly screening program during periods of high COVID-19 community transmission. Community transmission rates are determined by state and local health agencies. Families of students participating in these programs will receive more information from the music teachers and athletic coaches coordinating these activities.

Excellence in Education: A Continuing Tradition

Rationale for covid-Shield Screening Testing

District 90 participation in this screening testing program was considered very carefully. Before committing, the District consulted the Rush Infection Prevention Team for guidance, investigated the experiences of other K-8 school districts using the program, and thoughtfully weighed the risks vs. benefits. The covid-Shield test is a PCR test, which is currently the gold standard of COVID-19 testing. The goals of screening testing are to 1.) provide timely testing results to unvaccinated individuals about their COVID-19 health status and 2.) protect the school population from avoidable exposure to asymptomatic COVID-19 individuals.

Rationale for Middle School vs. Elementary Screening Testing

At this time, the D90 screening testing program is available to unvaccinated middle school students only. This determination was made after a thorough risk assessment was conducted by members of the Rush Infection Prevention Team on District 90's behalf about the relative value of providing the testing at the elementary level.

At this time, the Rush Infection Prevention Team risk assessment indicates that screening testing for the elementary level should be considered a secondary safeguard to the primary measures of mandatory, universal masking, and appropriate social distancing (among other mitigation steps). When properly executed, these primary measures will significantly reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission, even in the presence of any COVID-19 positive individuals. However, the District will continue to monitor elementary COVID-19 diagnoses and close contacts carefully to determine whether an elementary screening testing option should be considered in the future.

Thank You!

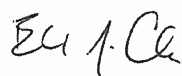
Thank you for helping keep our school community safe by considering participation for your middle school child in the COVID-19 screening testing program and for taking the time to read this lengthy document. Please be assured that the optional screening testing program is being offered in service of our primary goals for the 2021-22 school year:

1. Protect the health and safety of all students, staff, families, and the community to the greatest degree possible
2. Maintain a high-quality equitable program of in-person instruction for all students

If you have questions about the details of the covid-Shield screening testing program, please contact D90 Infection Control Officer Sam Martini at martinis@district90.org

If you have questions about providing online parental consent for the program, please contact Amy O'Toole, D90 Data Specialist, at otoolea@district90.org

With appreciation,



Ed Condon, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Ed Condon

Process/Timeline to Upload Evidence of COVID-19 Vaccination Status
September 1, 2021 at 4:26 PM

Ed Condon



Dear Colleague,

I hope you are doing well and looking forward to the Labor Day weekend.

As previously communicated, Governor J.B. Pritzker has mandated that all Illinois school personnel or individuals who are regularly in school buildings receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Exceptions include individuals with medical-contraindications and those with sincerely held religious objections, who are required to participate in weekly COVID-19 testing and then submit the results to the District to demonstrate compliance. Individuals who are not in compliance with the Executive Order cannot be permitted on school grounds, so this is a very important and time-sensitive matter. Please see the attached letter from August 30 containing more details. *Individuals who are not vaccinated but are able to vaccinated should be making plans to acquire a first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine immediately to ensure compliance.*

The District has established a secure process for vaccinated individuals to upload evidence of having completed the vaccination process. Please see the attached instruction sheet on how to upload evidence of your vaccination status to the D90 PowerSchool system. The system has been configured to keep this information secure as part of your personnel record so that the information is maintained securely. Acceptable evidence of vaccination includes your COVID-19 vaccination card, a letter from your physician attesting to your vaccination status, or a print-out from your medical record portal showing that your vaccination series is complete. Please note that all individuals will be logging in to PowerSchool through the teacher portal to complete the upload process. Individuals who currently have "administrator only" access will have a teacher portal created for them.

Individuals who have fully completed the COVID-19 vaccination series (at least two weeks since the second dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, or two weeks since the single dose of Johnson & Johnson vaccine) should upload their vaccination evidence as soon as possible, but no later than Saturday, September 4.

Individuals who are partially vaccinated or will have the first dose of vaccine before September 6 should upload evidence of their current vaccine status as soon as possible, but no later than Sunday, September 5. Individuals who do not upload evidence of a completed vaccination series will be required to submit negative PCR test results to Pam Jenkins, HR Specialist (jenkinsp@district90.org) by Saturday each week until the vaccination series is complete (at least two weeks since the second dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, or two weeks since the single dose of Johnson & Johnson vaccine).

Individuals with established medical contraindications or sincerely-held religious objections to the vaccine are asked to contact Pam Jenkins (jenkinsp@district90.org) no later than Friday, September 3 to establish a weekly COVID-19 PCR test-reporting regimen.

Please contact me if you have questions about this basis for this procedure at condone@district90.org

Please contact Pam Jenkins if you have questions about specific details of this procedure jenkinsp@district90.org

Please contact Amy O'Toole if you have questions about the process to upload your evidence of vaccination to PowerSchool at otoolea@district90.org

Thank you for your help with this important and time-sensitive matter. I know that this requirement adds an additional task to your "to-do" list at a very busy time, and am grateful for your assistance.

With appreciation,

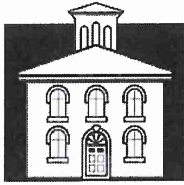
Ed



How to
Compl...taff.pdf



Administration Building



**River Forest
Public Schools**

Administration Building

7776 Lake Street
River Forest, IL 60305
Phone: 708-771-8282
Fax: 708-771-8291

August 30, 2021

Dear Colleague,

On August 26th, Governor JB Pritzker mandated all school personnel receive the COVID-19 vaccine or submit to weekly testing within 10 days of the Executive Order, or these individuals cannot be allowed on school grounds.

The District is working to implement a process to collect and maintain secure vaccination records of vaccinated staff. We will be providing a link soon with directions for employees to upload proof of full vaccination against COVID-19 by September 5th, using the PowerSchool portal. Please be assured that District 90 will safeguard your medical information by managing it in accordance with all established personnel record security protocols.

Unvaccinated faculty and staff must provide Pam Jenkins with a record of a weekly PCR test until they are fully vaccinated by sending them to jenkinsp@district90.org. Full vaccination is two weeks after the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine or the second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccinations. School personnel includes anyone employed by D90, contracted personnel, or regular volunteers. Please schedule your appointment to be vaccinated at your earliest convenience.

Any individual who is unable to have the vaccination because of medical contra-indications or a sincerely held religious belief is asked to contact Pam Jenkins to provide documentation exempting you no later than September 3 at jenkinsp@district90.org. The emergency order states that these individuals will be required to provide a weekly negative COVID-19 test to enter D90 schools.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Condon".

Ed Condon, Ph.D.
Superintendent