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Dear Flemington-Raritan School District Faculty, Staff, Parents and Community Members,

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, Hunterdon County and its schools are committed to providing safe, in-person learning for students, teachers, and staff. This can only be achieved if the County, public and private school systems, parents, and students work together to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in schools, particularly with the rise of the highly contagious Delta variant.

As part of this effort, the Flemington-Raritan Regional School District is pleased to announce that we, along with schools across Hunterdon County, will be partnering with New Jersey Department of Health's testing partner Mirimus, Inc., to offer the County's COVID-19 screening testing program.

The program relies on:

- Mandatory weekly testing of all unvaccinated covered workers, including teachers and staff with a completed consent form; and
- Voluntary testing availability for all students and teachers, staff, faculty and "covered workers," per Executive Order 253 regardless of vaccination status with a completed consent form.

This method will allow early detection of COVID-19 in pre-symptomatic or asymptomatic individuals. Early detection means more effective risk mitigation strategies preventing the virus from spreading in schools. Preventing school outbreaks is key to ensuring our schools stay open to provide the education and support our children need.

All students, teachers, and staff are highly encouraged to participate in this no-cost to the participant, school-based COVID-19 screening testing program, however only unvaccinated covered workers, including teachers and staff are mandated to test under the executive order. Executive Order 253 does not require this specific testing program or that students are tested, only that unvaccinated covered workers must submit proof of negative testing. The onsite testing program is an option for testing for those that choose to select this particular testing venue. The program will use non-invasive, self-collected saliva samples that are appropriate and painless for all ages. Samples will be processed using accurate and reliable PCR analysis—the gold standard of COVID-19 testing— to identify positive cases.

To participate in the onsite COVID-19 testing program, <u>click here to read and complete the consent and HIPPA release</u> <u>forms</u> for each student in your household, or for yourself, if a covered worker (i.e., teacher, staff, faculty, volunteer, substitute teacher, etc). In order to participate in the onsite testing program, you must provide your consent as soon as possible. You do not need to reply or send information if you do not want to participate. Once you consent, Flemington-Raritan Regional School District will be in touch with more details regarding the testing program.

Individuals that select to participate will be asked to submit insurance information. Mirimus will not charge the individual participating. As part of Mirimus' contract with the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH), individuals without the insurance information or if the claim is rejected by the insurance company, the NJDOH will cover the costs of testing. Consent is available at any point for enrollment in the weekly screening testing program.

Thank you, *Dr. Kari McGann* Superintendent of Schools

*Kathleen Barbee* Lead Nurse & COVID-19 Coordinator

The New Jersey Schools COVID-19 Screening Testing Program is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$15,800,820 with 100 percent funded by the CDC/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by the CDC/HHS, or the U.S. Government. For more information, please visit <u>https://www.cdc.gov/</u>.

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