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Hello Gillette Road Middle School Cohort B families,

As you know, we were notified by the Onondaga County Department of Health that [all NSCSD schools are within the COVID-19 microcluster yellow zone](#). In order for our buildings to remain open for in-person (hybrid) instruction, we must test at least 20% of our students/staff. **As a result, COVID-19 surveillance testing will take place at the Gillette Road Middle School for Cohort B students on Thursday, January 28.**

Parents of students scheduled to be in attendance that day will need to [register their child\(ren\) by clicking here](#). If you are the parent of a GRMS Cohort B student that normally attends on Thursday and would like to have your child participate, please use the link to sign your child up for testing. Testing is only available for students that are scheduled to be in attendance on the testing day and who have not previously been tested at one of the school test sites. Students/staff that have tested positive in the previous 60 days should be excluded from testing. The registration must be completed in order to participate.

Testing will be conducted by NSCSD nurses using the [BinaxNow](#) nasal swab (only collects a sample from the lower part of the nostril) that produces results in about 15 minutes. Because a limited number of tests are available, students will only be eligible if they are scheduled to be in attendance on January 28. Periodic testing will continue until the yellow zone designation is removed.

We received a few questions wondering if family members can accompany their child during the testing process. Parents/guardians may accompany their child during the testing procedure only but will only be allowed in at the child's appointment time and must leave as soon as the sample is taken. Parents/guardians may not wait for test results. Accompanying a child is not a requirement and school staff will be present to offer support to any child undergoing testing. **If you plan to accompany your child, please call the main office to let them know.**

While we are working on some logistics, this is what we do know:

- Testing will take place on Thursday, January 28.
- There is no requirement for parents to accompany their child to the testing procedure.
- NSCSD nurses will administer the test and employees will be available to help and support students.
- There is no cost associated with this test.
- The testing is only for students who are not showing symptoms. If your student is showing symptoms of COVID-19, please do not sign them up for testing.

Thank you for your flexibility and patience as this yellow zone surveillance testing is new and evolving.

If you have any questions please contact the main office at (315) 218-3000.

Sincerely,

Daniel D. Bowles, Superintendent of Schools