THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
185 BRANCH ROAD
THOMASTON, CT 06787
860-283-3053
860-283-3096

FRANCINE COSS, SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Parents/Guardians: Thursday, January 6, 2022

Thomaston Public Schools received its first allotment of COVID-19 Test Kits for students. **This first allotment is being distributed to Black Rock School students today.**

The youngest student in each household who attends Black Rock School will be given a sealed envelope today which contains at least one COVID-19 test for each BRS Pre-K-3 student in that household. In other words, the test kits are being distributed to the youngest BRS student for all BRS students in that household; **if you have Center School or Thomaston High School students in your family, they will not get a test kit today.**
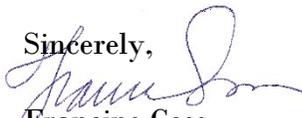
Students who attend Center School or Thomaston High School will receive COVID-19 test kits as more test kits are made available to the school district.
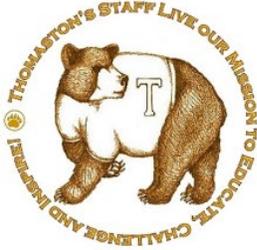
The district does have a very limited number of tests at Center School and Thomaston High School that the School Nurse will offer to symptomatic students in those schools only.

Special thanks to Spencer Luthy, Michelina Stanley, Jessica Bedosky, Maureen Laplante, Jennifer Irazabal, and Pamela Nascimento for their quick work to get these test kits out to our BRS students today.

NOTE: If you are in a family that receives a test kit today, **please do not use the test before reading the conditions of use document at the end of this letter.**

And, as always, please do not send your child to school if he or she is symptomatic and let Mrs. Aniki know if they are COVID-19 positive.

Sincerely,

Francine Coss
Superintendent of Schools

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FRANCINE COSS, SUPERINTENDENT

Estimados padres / tutores: jueves 6 de enero de 2022

Las Escuelas Públicas de Thomaston recibieron su primera asignación de kits de prueba COVID-19 para estudiantes. **Esta primera asignación se distribuye hoy a los estudiantes de Black Rock School.**

El estudiante más joven de cada hogar que asista a Black Rock School recibirá hoy un sobre sellado que contiene al menos una prueba COVID-19 para cada estudiante de BRS Pre-K-3 en ese hogar. En otras palabras, los kits de prueba se están distribuyendo al estudiante más joven de BRS para todos los estudiantes de BRS en ese hogar; **Si tiene estudiantes de Center School o Thomaston High School en su familia, no recibirán un kit de prueba hoy.**

Los estudiantes que asisten a la escuela Center School o Thomaston High School recibirán kits de prueba COVID-19 a medida que el distrito escolar disponga de más kits de prueba.

El distrito tiene un número muy limitado de pruebas en la escuela Center y la escuela secundaria Thomaston que la enfermera escolar ofrecerá a los estudiantes sintomáticos en esas escuelas solamente.

Un agradecimiento especial a Spencer Luthy, Michelina Stanley, Jessica Bedosky, Maureen Laplante, Jennifer Irazabal y Pamela Nascimento por su rápido trabajo para entregar estos kits de prueba a nuestros estudiantes de BRS hoy.

NOTA: Si pertenece a una familia que recibe un kit de prueba hoy, **no utilice la prueba antes de leer el documento de condiciones de uso al final de esta carta.**

Y, como siempre, no envíe a su hijo/a a la escuela si presenta síntomas y avísele a la Sra. Aniki si tiene COVID-19 positivo.

Atentamente,

Francine Coss
Superintendente de escuelas

Why Use a COVID-19 Self-Test?

COVID-19 self-testing is one of the actions you can take to protect yourself and your close contacts. To protect yourself and others against COVID-19, you should:

- Get the COVID19 vaccine and your booster
- Wear a mask
- Practice social distancing, whenever possible

Are COVID-19 self-tests difficult to use?

Self-tests can be taken at home or anywhere, are easy to use, and produce quick results.

Some kits have two test cards. Can I use one of them for two people?

Each kit is meant for one person, whether the kit contains one test or two tests. If you are using a kit that contains two tests: if your first test is negative, use the second test 24-48 hours later, per manufacturer's instructions.

When should I use it?

- Use a self-test if you are feeling sick to quickly learn if you might have COVID-19
- Use a self-test after you're notified that you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19. If it is negative, you can repeat the test five days after exposure
- Use a self-test before going to indoor gatherings to evaluate your risk of spreading COVID-19

If I am vaccinated or unvaccinated, will the test still work?

Yes. You can use self-tests, regardless of vaccination status.

How long do I need to be sick before I use the test kit?

You can use self-tests, even when you are not sick. Someone with COVID-19 symptoms should get tested as soon as possible.

What does a positive COVID-19 self-test result mean?

If you test positive, you should isolate and inform your healthcare provider, as well as any close contacts. You **do not** need to get another test through a doctor or pharmacy.

- A positive self-test result means that the test detected the virus, and you are very likely to have COVID-19
- Stay home or isolate for five days, even if you are asymptomatic or your symptoms are resolving
- Wear a mask if you have contact with others
- Avoid indoor gatherings to reduce the risk of spreading disease to someone else

What does a negative COVID-19 self-test mean?

A negative self-test result means that the test did not detect the virus and you may not have an infection, *but it does not entirely rule out infection.* Repeating the test within a few days, with at least 24 hours between tests, will increase the confidence that you are not infected. (That is why each kit comes with two tests.) **If you do not feel well, regardless of a negative test result, you should stay home.**

What does an inconclusive or invalid COVID-19 self-test mean?
If your home test is inconclusive, use the second test card and try again. If both are inconclusive, then consider getting tested through your health care provider, a pharmacy, or at a community site.

Do I need to report my COVID-19 test result to the state or local health authorities?
No. You do not need to report your result to public health authorities, but you should tell your [close contacts](#) (people you have spent time with lately) that you have COVID-19, so that they can get tested and protect others, too. In addition, if a child who attends daycare or school tests positive, you should inform the institution.

Will this test detect variants?
Self-tests will not tell you which variant of the virus has been detected. FDA has been monitoring the potential impact of genetic variants on antigen tests (self-tests are antigen tests). Early data suggests that antigen tests do detect the omicron variant but may have reduced sensitivity. [Click here for more information.](#)

For more information on self-test kits, please visit the CDC website at: [Self-Testing | CDC](#)