

April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021

To: Spectrum Parents/Guardians

Re: Free COVID-19 Testing (all) and Vaccines for Students (16-17)



The Minnesota Departments of Education and Health have requested that schools share information on the following ways that students and families can access free COVID-19 testing and vaccines.

## I. COVID TESTING

**A. Student COVID-19 Testing** – students are able to send their Vault-at-Home tests back to the lab through Spectrum.

How this works:

1. Students or families order tests through the [Vault-at-Home program](#) (*remember tests are no costs to Minnesota residents*).
2. Students complete their test at home.
3. Students seal their sample tube and place it in the biohazard bag. The biohazard bag then gets sealed in the shipping bag that comes with the test. The shipping label sticker is attached to the bag.
4. Students bring their sealed shipping bag with the shipping label to school on the Spectrum's designated onsite testing days for staff.
  - a. Spectrum's testing dates are on the following Thursdays, May 13<sup>th</sup> and May 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - b. If a student wants Spectrum to mail their test from Vault-at-Home, it must be returned in the shipping bag to the high school on the designated testing date no later than 10:00 a.m.
  - c. Questions about dropping off home tests at school should be directed to Michele Newberger, Spectrum's COVID-19 Coordinator, at (763) 450-9804 or [mnewberger@spectrumhighschool.org](mailto:mnewberger@spectrumhighschool.org).

## B. COVID-19 Testing for Families

The Minnesota Department of Health recommends that all school-age youth on campus, in youth sports or extracurricular activities, and their families, get tested at least every two weeks through the end of the school year. While it is not a requirement, they indicate that regular testing complements other safety measures already in place, such as masking and social distancing. More information on testing for students and families can be found [here](#).

## II. VACCINATIONS

The 'Roll Up Your Sleeves, MN' Campaign is highlighting 16 and 17 year old COVID-19 vaccine-eligible Minnesotans this upcoming week (Tues., April 27<sup>th</sup>-Sat., May 1<sup>st</sup>).

During this week, appointments will be prioritized for 16 and 17 year old students and their parents.

Go to the [CDC's Vaccine Finder](#) to schedule an appointment for a Pfizer vaccine at a pharmacy near you or sign up on Minnesota's [COVID Vaccine Connector](#) to receive more information about vaccine opportunities.

Very important: the Pfizer vaccine has ONLY been authorized to vaccinate youth ages 16 and up and will only be administered to those ages 16 and up.

**Important:** *If someone is fully vaccinated and is exposed, they do not need to quarantine if ALL of the following are true:*

- *The COVID-19 exposure was at least 14 days after their vaccination series was fully completed.*
- *They do not currently have any symptoms of COVID-19.*
- *People who have had COVID-19 (with a positive lab-confirmed test) in the past 90 days also do not need to quarantine.*