

WIN-E-MAC SCHOOL DISTRICT

RANDY BRUER, SUPERINTENDENT

www.win-e-mac.k12.mn.us

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Erskine, MN 56535
Kevin McKeever, Principal

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April 23, 2021

Dear families,

The State of Minnesota has provided free COVID-19 test kits for middle and high schools so that we can offer on-site testing for our students. Beginning April 29th and 30th, Win-E-Mac School will begin offering free COVID-19 testing for all students, grades 7-12, every other week through the end of the school year.

For your student to take part in testing, you will need to sign and complete an acknowledgement form. A copy will also be sent home with your student or can be requested at our school's front office.

In order to slow the spread so that we can continue learning in-person, I encourage every family to take advantage of this opportunity to get their middle and high school students tested for COVID-19. **As long as students don't have symptoms and have not been close to someone with COVID-19, they do not need to stay out of school, sports or activities while awaiting test results. Learn more about [student COVID-19 testing](#).**

Minnesota is experiencing high circulation of variants of COVID-19. For example, it is currently estimated that 60% of all COVID-19 cases in Minnesota are the B.1.1.7. variant strain, which is a new version of the virus that spreads more easily. The spread of COVID-19 variants, including B.1.1.7, is contributing to a sharp increase in COVID-19 cases statewide in Minnesota and in particular we are seeing more cases concentrated in the school-age population.

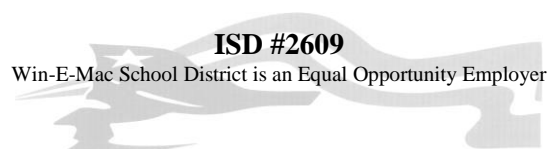
Anyone can have COVID-19 and not know it, and it is estimated that almost 50% of people with COVID-19 have no symptoms. Getting tested is the best way to know you are healthy and allow us to continue to offer in-person learning and extracurricular opportunities, especially with the increasing spread of virus variants in our state. Learn more about why COVID-19 testing is important for students in [this video](#).

This in-school testing program is intended to help identify asymptomatic cases of COVID-19 so that we can prevent further spread. If students are experiencing any symptoms, they should stay home, and get a test from [one of Minnesota's free community testing sites](#) or through their health care provider.

If your student is unable to take part in our on-site COVID-19 testing event, there are many other options to get tested at no cost. Families can visit [one of Minnesota's free community testing sites](#), get tested through a health care provider, or order an at-home test kit. In-person or language line assistance is available at community testing sites. Some testing sites also have COVID Community Coordinators to help walk people through the testing process. Learn more on the [COVID Community Coordinator](#) page of the MDH website.

ISD #2609

Win-E-Mac School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer



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At any time, any Minnesotan can [order a test kit to be sent directly to their home](#), through a program offered by the Minnesota Department of Health. Once you have completed the test, you can drop off the test at school to be sent to the lab. Our school will be sending shipments to the lab on the following dates, which all are a Friday: 4/30, 5/14 and 5/28.

Additionally, all youth in grade 6-12 who are participating in club or school sports are strongly encouraged to get tested at least once per week for COVID-19. Learn more on the [Stay Safe Minnesota – Organized Sports](#) webpage.

This is optional. If you would like your student to participate, an “acknowledgement of testing form” needs to be completed, which is attached.

Thank you,

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