



**K12 Alert: Important Message from CHUFSD COVID Coordinators including Testing Information**

August 30, 2021

Dear Croton-Harmon Students, Parents, Staff and Community,

We are writing to provide you with a few updates.

- As you know, in Croton-Harmon we have mandated masks indoors and this is part of our School Opening Plan. For your information, on Friday, August, 27th, the New York State Department of Health issued the same mandate and shared, “Effective immediately, in accordance with the Commissioner's Determination issued pursuant to 10 NYCRR 2.60, any person over the age of 2 (including all students, personnel, teachers, administrators, contractors, and visitors) must wear masks at all times indoors in P-12 school buildings, regardless of vaccination status.”
- As we discussed in our Croton-Harmon School Opening Plan, we have partnered with the Westchester County Department of Health's (WCDOH) COVID-19 Screening Testing Program. WCDOH has assigned Quadrant Biosciences to our district and we look forward to working closely with Quadrant Biosciences. WCDOH is arranging for our testing partner, Quadrant, to begin sample collection events for our district at some point between September 9 - September 17. Once we have more information, we will let you know.
- Finally, we ask that you review Dr. O'Connell's letter which contains some further details and the consent form for testing.

Sincerely,

The COVID Coordinator Team (John Griffiths, Craig Campanaro, Lauren Scollins, Mark Maxam)



Croton-Harmon Union Free School District  
10 Gerstein Street  
Croton-on-Hudson, New York 10520

**Dr. Deborah O'Connell**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

**To: Parents/Guardians, Teachers, and Staff of the Croton-Harmon Union Free School District**

**From: Croton-Harmon Union Free School District**

Dear Croton-Harmon Community,

The start of the school year is upon us! As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, Westchester County and its schools are committed to a safe return to 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 and keep one another safe. This is especially important given the rise of the highly contagious Delta variant.

As part of this effort, Croton-Harmon is pleased to announce that we, along with schools across Westchester County, will be partnering with Westchester County Department of Health's testing partner Quadrant Biosciences to offer the County's FREE COVID-19 screening testing program.

The program relies on two testing strategies:

- Voluntary arrival testing of all students, teachers, and staff within the first two weeks of school
- Voluntary weekly testing of 20% of all students, teachers, and staff thereafter

This method will allow early detection of COVID-19 in pre-symptomatic or asymptomatic individuals. Early detection means we can better stop 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 (vaccinated AND unvaccinated ) are highly encouraged to participate in this free, school-based COVID-19 screening testing program. 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.

Please read and complete the [attached consent forms](#) for each student in your household (or for yourself, if teacher/staff). In order to participate in arrival testing during the first weeks of school, we encourage you to consent as soon as possible. Otherwise, you can consent at any point for enrollment in the weekly 20% screening testing program. Once you consent, Croton-Harmon Union Free School District will be in touch with more details regarding the testing program.

Thank you,

Dr. Deborah O'Connell

Superintendent of Schools

**CC: Dr. Sherlita Amler, MD, Commissioner of Health, Westchester County Department of Health**

*The Westchester County 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 <https://www.cdc.gov/>.*

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**Para: Padres/Tutores de Estudiantes, Maestros y Personal del Croton-Harmon**

**De parte de: Croton-Harmon**

Estimados Padres/Tutores, Maestros y Personal

¡El inicio del año escolar está sobre nosotros! A medida que la pandemia de COVID-19 continúa evolucionando, el condado de Westchester y sus escuelas están comprometidos a proporcionar un retorno seguro al aprendizaje en persona para estudiantes, maestros y personal.

Esto solo se puede lograr si el Condado, los sistemas escolares públicos y privados, los padres y los estudiantes trabajan juntos para prevenir la propagación de COVID-19 en las escuelas y

mantenerse seguros unos a otros. Esto es especialmente importante dado el auge de la variante Delta altamente contagiosa.

Como parte de este esfuerzo, Croton-Harmon se complace en anunciar que nosotros, junto con las escuelas de todo el condado de Westchester, nos asociaremos con los socios de pruebas del Departamento de Salud del Condado de Westchester, Quadrant Biosciences, Inc., para ofrecer el programa gratuito de pruebas de detección de COVID-19 del Condado.

El programa se basa en dos estrategias de prueba:

- Pruebas de entrada voluntaria (llegada) de todos los estudiantes, maestros y personal dentro de las primeras dos semanas del año escolar
- Pruebas semanales voluntarias del 20% de todos los estudiantes, maestros y personal a partir de entonces

Este método permitirá la detección temprana de COVID-19 en individuos presintomáticos o asintomáticos. La detección temprana significa que podemos detener mejor la propagación del virus en las escuelas. Prevenir los brotes escolares es clave para garantizar que nuestras escuelas permanezcan abiertas para proporcionar la educación y el apoyo que nuestros niños necesitan.

Se recomienda encarecidamente a todos los estudiantes, maestros y personal (vacunados Y no vacunados) que participen en este programa gratuito de pruebas de detección de COVID-19 en la escuela. El programa utilizará muestras de saliva no invasivas y auto-recolectadas que son apropiadas y sin dolor para todas las edades. Las muestras se procesarán utilizando análisis de PCR precisos y fiables—el estándar de oro de las pruebas COVID-19— para identificar casos positivos.

Por favor, lea y complete [los formularios de consentimiento](#) adjuntos para cada estudiante en su hogar. Con el fin de que su estudiante participe en las pruebas de entrada (llegada) durante la primera semana de la escuela, le recomendamos que dé su consentimiento lo antes posible. Si no da su consentimiento antes del primer día de clases, aún puede dar su consentimiento en cualquier momento para que su estudiante se inscriba en el programa semanal de pruebas de detección del 20%. Una vez que usted dé su consentimiento, Croton-Harmon estará en contacto con más detalles sobre el programa de pruebas.

Gracias

Dra. Deborah O'Connell

**CC: Dra. Sherlita Amler, MD, Comisionada de Salud, Departamento de Salud del Condado de Westchester**

*El Programa de Pruebas de Detección de COVID-19 de las Escuelas del Condado de Westchester cuenta con el apoyo de los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC) del Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos de los Estados Unidos (HHS) como parte de un premio de asistencia financiera por un total de \$15,800,820 con un 100 por ciento financiado por los CDC/HHS. Los contenidos son los de los autores y no representan necesariamente los puntos de vista oficiales de, ni un respaldo, por parte de los CDC/HHS, o el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos. Para obtener más información, visite <https://www.cdc.gov/>.*