

Parents and Caretakers -

Since the start of the school year, we have prioritized in-person learning while protecting the safety and health of our students, staff, and families. This has included access to regular COVID-19 testing for our educators and staff. We're pleased to now be able to offer regular COVID-19 testing, through the state of Minnesota's partnership with Vault, to our Middle School students, as well.

Beginning **Thursday, May 20** and again on **Wednesday, June 3** we will distribute testing kits throughout the Middle School classrooms to students who are interested. Each student can bring home a testing kit. That kit is the same one used at many of the state's community testing sites as well as offered through the COVID-19 At-Home testing program.

Here are the steps to take the test:

- Make sure you have Zoom downloaded on the device you're using to test. You can download Zoom by going to this link: <https://zoom.us/download>
- When your child is ready to take your test, go to this link: COVID.VLT.CO
- You can create a login using your email or by creating a username and password.
- Finally, you'll provide some basic information and then enter in the testing kit ID, which starts with FR or SD. You'll then be prompted to meet a Vault test supervisor over Zoom. The test supervisors will give you instructions and make sure your student does the test the right way.
- After your student takes the test, he or she will return it to school the following day, where school officials will collect the kits and ship them to a Vault lab for processing.
 - Students should bring their test samples to the front office on
 - **Friday, May 21 &**
 - **Thursday, June 3.**
- Once it arrives at the lab, individual test results will be ready in 24-48 hours, provided directly to the email associated with the Vault Health account. You can also access results by logging in with your email or username on Vault's website: app.vaulthealth.com

The test results are NOT provided to the school nor reported in any identifiable way. Students and families are encouraged to inform schools of positive results so the school can take steps to prevent the spread of the virus to other students and staff.

A few additional notes:

- This optional screening program is intended to identify asymptomatic students. Participating in this testing without symptoms does **not** require any isolation or quarantine while awaiting results.
- This program is provided at no cost to you. Your insurance company will **not** be billed.

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.

Please discuss this testing option with your child so that they know whether to take a test kit when it is offered to them, or to pass. Students should take the test that evening and return it to the school the next day to be included in the group mailing.

If you have any questions or concerns about this program please reach out to Holly Filscher at hfisher@davincicharterschool.org.

Thank you.