Information from Governor Kathy Hochul’s Office on School Reopening Resources

September 7, 2021

During Governor Hochul’s first day in office, she announced a plan to help support a safe return to school in the fall. To help ensure testing is available to students as they return to school, funds are being utilized to launch a COVID-19 Testing in Schools Program, also referred to as the ELC School Reopening Program, in partnerships with local health departments and BOCES throughout New York State outside of New York City. New York City has received funds to initiate a COVID-19 Testing in Schools program. All K-12 schools, public, private, charter, and parochial are eligible to receive support through this initiative.

If your school/district operates in one of the counties listed below, please contact your county BOCES for more information.

- Montgomery and Fulton Counties: Hamilton-Fulton-Montgomery BOCES
- Herkimer County: Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES
- Madison County: Madison-Oneida BOCES
- Oneida County: Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES

For schools/districts in all other counties, please reach out to your local health department for more information if you have not yet heard from them. It is imperative that schools and local departments of health are working closely to ensure testing is available. For schools operating in NYC, please contact the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene for information.

The CDC recently released a COVID-19 Testing Communication Toolkit for Schools which provides helpful resources for communicating with parents, caregivers, staff, and students about COVID-19 school testing. This kit includes:

- Social media content that communicates the importance of COVID-19 school testing and can be shared on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook.
- Informational flyers to promote school COVID-19 testing programs and answer questions about COVID-19 school testing.
- Posters that highlight the benefits of COVID-19 testing programs in schools and portray in-person learning and activities.
- Customizable letters and FAQs for teachers, parents, and guardians that address frequently asked questions about school COVID-19 testing programs.