October 22, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Starting November 15, 2021, Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) will begin a required after-school testing program for all high school winter sports and drama productions that begin rehearsals after November 15, 2021. After-school athletics and drama productions are considered high-risk by the CDC due to the nature of the activity and the increased close or direct contact of students. COVID-19 exposures through these activities increase transmission and impacts students’ abilities to stay in class. The CDC recommends screening testing programs for high-risk activities, as directly described here:

“To facilitate safe participation in sports, extracurricular activities, and other activities with elevated risk (such as activities that involve singing, shouting, band, and exercise that could lead to increased exhalation), schools should consider implementing screening testing for participants who are not fully vaccinated.”  
[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html#screening-testing](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fcommunity%2Fschools-childcare%2Fk-12-guidance.html%23screening-testing&data=04%7C01%7CChristina.Paquette%40hcps.org%7Cf6b82f5f0d214165684c08d98509fc87%7Cc1f6ac536b774db594724f104eeac96a%7C0%7C0%7C637687100209772034%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=a81j0jEQDKUW8jd19hzulgtflC9McqkxmZXerUq1hqA%3D&reserved=0)

Through this program, paid for by the State of Maryland, Mako Medical will provide weekly PCR tests to students in winter sports or drama productions at each high school.  Students will receive further information about the day, time, and location of weekly testing prior to the start of their after-school activity.

Students who are fully vaccinated do not need to participate in weekly testing. Students who are vaccinated will need to provide proof of vaccination by showing a copy of both sides of the vaccine card to Mrs. Lawrence. If you are eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, please speak with your health care provider about being vaccinated.

To complete the required registration for weekly testing, please use this link: <https://schools.coquihealth.com/registration/61872a5c-2ca3-411e-b1b4-6926a8fe0273>

If you do not complete the registration prior to **November 5, 2021,** it will delay your student’s ability to participate in winter sports or drama production rehearsals as of November 15, 2021.

Please continue monitoring yourself and your child for signs of illness, including a fever, cough, difficulty breathing, new onset of severe headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, or new loss of taste or smell.  If you notice symptoms, please stay home and consult with your health care provider to determine if you need to be tested for COVID-19.  In addition, please continue to follow practices that minimize the spread of COVID-19 by always maintaining maximum physical distancing from others, wear a face covering when you are out of your home, cover your coughs and sneezes with your sleeve or tissue, and wash your hands regularly.

Thank you for your help in keeping our community healthy.

Sincerely,

Text

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

Dr. Sean W. Bulson

Superintendent of Schools