

January 12, 2022

Greetings Coles community,

I am happy to announce that school is back in session and with that comes a tremendous amount of responsibility to keep the children, teachers and staff safe. I can assure you the administration is up to the challenge. We are putting additional safety measures in place, ensuring that we offer screenings, sanitizers, disinfectant wipes and a clean environment. However, our percentage of fully vaccinated students could be higher, so we are doing our part to bring those services directly into our community. In the meantime we ask that you allow your child to submit to weekly testing to ensure there are no surprises. To decrease the spread of Covid we have to ensure the students are following protocol at all times and we have no choice but to administer discipline for those who put others safety in danger. All students must wear masks the proper way and maintain social distance at all times. Failure to do so will result in immediate disciplinary action. All students regardless of age or grade level have been taught and given examples of proper mask wearing; and we've explained the importance of these expectations. We are currently in the process of setting up a Zoom meeting for next week to address new updates, concerns, field comments and hear your voices.

In addition please make sure you have provided the office with your latest contact information, sign up for the **Remind app** to receive the latest updates and check the school's website at www.colesacademy.cps.edu

As part of the district's efforts to ensure the safety of our students, C.P.S. has partnered with Thermo Fisher Scientific and Color Health to provide all students with Covid-19 testing. We want to encourage you to get all the facts about testing. A parent or guardian must register any minor under the age of 18 years of age. Parents/guardians will be given a one-time consent and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA) authorization to share your child's results with the school and the district.

Testing is available for all children, it is also required for all students who are participating in CPS sports who are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated. Testing will take place during regular school hours and results will be available in 24 to 48 hours. Color Health will follow up with you directly with a positive or negative result.

Your student's results will be emailed and texted to the information you provide.

Please go to the Color website at <https://www.color.com/readychckgo-cps> and select whether you are registering for a staff member or student. You can then search for your school name for your school's unique sign-up link. City Wide employees should search "City-Wide Employees" and use that link to register. You may also choose to sign-up



for testing online using this QR code.

Simply scan the code with your phone's camera and register online. Please let the school or your child's teacher know if there's any information you need in order to complete registration for testing.

Thank you!

Collection of samples (swabbing) will be conducted by students/staff unless participants need assistance. In this instance, the onsite medical staff, which are experienced medical clinicians can administer sample collection.

The test will involve a nasal swab. It is a quick and easy test. This nasal test gently swabs the inner part of the lower nostril. The test will not hurt, but it may feel slightly uncomfortable. Colors medical staff will not use the longer swabs that reach higher into the nose. While we know that our mitigation efforts slow the spread of the virus, cases are inevitable. If your child is fully vaccinated, he or she may remain in school if exposed to the virus instead of having to quarantine at home as unvaccinated students are required to do