

Dear Nardin Community,

Thank you again to everyone who participated in and volunteered with the COVID-19 testing on Saturday that has allowed Nardin Academy to reopen for in-person learning. You can truly tell how happy students are to be here in this school. Nardin is committed to keeping in-person learning going, as long as infection rates remain under control.

## **Monthly School Testing Requirements**

### **Orange Zone**

In addition to continued daily screening for symptoms and exposure, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) has set further guidelines in order for schools to remain open while much of the county remains in the orange zone. In compliance with county and state guidelines, Nardin will be performing additional COVID-19 testing beginning next week. According to the state guidelines, schools in the Orange Zone must provide and report on testing of 20% of in-person students, faculty, and staff monthly. To meet this goal, we will test 10% of in-person students, faculty, and staff biweekly.

Nardin will test 10% of in-person students, faculty and staff next week to fulfill state testing requirements for December. Parents and guardians will receive email notification by tomorrow if their child has been selected for random testing. Beginning January 4th, the bimonthly 10% testing requirement will be broken down into testing 5% of the in-person population each week. This will ensure timely and efficient testing for those who are randomly selected.

### **Red Zone**

If our area transitions into the Red Zone, testing will continue following the same format as stated above with a slight increase in percentage of those tested. Nardin would be required to test 30% of in-person students, staff, and faculty monthly, or 15% biweekly. To date, the city of Buffalo remains in the designated Orange Zone.

## **Testing Starts Monday, December 14**

Beginning on Monday, December 14, the two registered nurses on staff at Nardin will begin COVID-19 testing to meet the required percentages for each school. The same rapid tests ([Abbott BinaxNow COVID Ag Card](#)) that were utilized last Saturday will continue to be used. **Please note, each school (Montessori, Lower & Middle, and High School) will have 10% of their in-person population COVID-19 tested biweekly.**

The testing schedule will be as follows:

**Monday**-testing **Montessori** students (excluding toddlers), faculty/staff

**Tuesday-** testing **Lower & Middle** school students, faculty/staff

**Wednesday/Thursday-** testing **High School** students, faculty/staff

**Friday-** “make-up” testing day in case percentages are not met due to absences during the beginning of the week

## **Positivity Rates Resulting in School Closure**

According to NYSDOH guidelines:

*“Schools in either an Orange or Red Zone If the random sampling generates 9 or more positive cases in any school, or if for a sample size of more than 300 weekly tests, achieves a positivity rate of 2% or higher (6 cases or more depending on sample size) in New York City, or 3% (9 or more cases depending on sample size) outside of New York City, of one such discrete sample, then the school will be required to close.” (Interim Guidance on COVID-19 Testing Requirements for Public and Non-Public Schools Located in Areas Designated as “Red” or “Orange” Cluster Zones Under the New York State Cluster Action Initiative)*

As always, Nardin will follow all state and local mandates related to COVID-19. Nardin will apply these guidelines to Montessori, Lower and Middle schools, and High school. If a school should close, we are awaiting guidance from NYSDOH related to reopening. To read more about the state guidelines, please [click here](#)

## **Going Forward**

An additional email will be sent out the Friday preceding each week regarding your child’s specific testing date and time. If you do not receive an email notifying you of your child being selected to test next week, you will receive one as time goes on, while we work through the list of students. You will only be notified if your child receives a positive test result. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly through email at [hsorge@nardin.org](mailto:hsorge@nardin.org) or at [clinic@nardin.org](mailto:clinic@nardin.org) or by phone 881-6262 ext.1250. Again, your continued support, cooperation, and patience throughout this continuously changing process is greatly appreciated.

Have a nice day,

Hannah Sorge, BS, BSN, RN

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