



RSU 23  
Old Orchard Beach School Department  
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[www.rsu23.org](http://www.rsu23.org)

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Date: September 17, 2021

Subject: PreK-8 Pooled Testing Update

Dear RSU 23 Families:

Our RSU 23 PreK-8 Pooled Testing Program launched this week with huge success. **This past Tuesday over 120 PreK-8 students and staff were tested in the first week of our pooled testing program. Lab results have been analyzed and there were zero positive tests in the 120 swab sample!** In terms of future communications regarding pooled testing results no news is good news! We will not be updating families every week about negative results, only notifying families if they are connected to a positive pool.

I would also like to take the opportunity to encourage all Prek-8 students to sign-up for this free school based testing program. COVID-19 pooled-testing offers school staff, students, and families more certainty about their school and work schedules because participants **do not have to quarantine**. Pooled testing also increases confidence in children's safety at school because it provides a better understanding of COVID-related risks. Unlike other COVID-19 tests, pooled testing offers less disruption from in-person learning and on-site work. (Non-participating students still have to quarantine when exposed to COVID-19.)

RSU 23 is encouraging participation in this program and signing up takes less than 5 minutes through an online registration and consent process. If you need a paper consent, or assistance with doing the online process, please contact your school nurse. Once you have completed this online registration and consent form they will be enrolled in our weekly testing program. If you are providing consent for more than one child, please complete the process for each individual student.

- **Online Pooled Testing Registration & Consent Process:**
- For Test Takers under the age of 18 use the following link: [Concentric COVID-19 Pooled Testing Program Link](#). When prompted please use this RSU 23 Specific Access Code: **KQNE7I**
  - **\*\*Please note that individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 90 days should wait to sign up for this program until their 90 days have passed. Please contact your school nurse for more details.**

For more information on our RSU 23 Pooled Testing program (Grades Prek-8) please review the slides from our virtual parent forum- [RSU 23 Pooled Testing Presentation](#) (Linked). Any additional questions can be directed to our school nurses by phone or email, Sarah Burnham, 934-4461 Ext. 1503, [sburnham@rsu23.org](mailto:sburnham@rsu23.org), or Katie Gagnon 934-4848 Ext. 1103, [kgagnon@rsu23.org](mailto:kgagnon@rsu23.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Suttie".

John Suttie, RSU 23 Superintendent of Schools