



GRETCHEN WHITMER GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN

ELIZABETH HERTEL DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES

LANSING, MI

Dear Parent(s) and/or Guardian(s),

Face-to-face learning environments are important for students to learn and thrive. To support our students, educators, and staff, in providing that invaluable learning environment, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is piloting a new program called MI Backpack Home Tests. This program provides a limited number of free, at-home COVID-19 antigen tests to students and staff in Michigan's schools during the 2021-2022 school year. This pilot program offers one more tool to create a safer environment for students, staff, and families.

Parents who opt into the MI Backpack Home Tests program will receive one test kit, which includes two at-home tests. The at-home test entails a simple swab, less than one inch into the nostril. Test results are available within 15 minutes. Testing is not recommended for those who have recovered from confirmed COVID-19 in the past three months and remain symptom-free.

Any student that has symptoms of COVID-19 should still isolate at home. Symptoms of COVID 19 include fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, vomiting, diarrhea, and skin rashes.

MI Backpack Home Tests is an optional program that our school has chosen to make available to students. If you wish to have your student participate, please fill out this online form: [bit.ly/MIBackpack](https://bit.ly/MIBackpack).

The health and safety of our school community is important to us all. COVID-19 testing for staff and students is just one of many ways our school is working to help keep our school community safe from the virus. Wearing masks, washing hands often, maintaining social distance wherever possible, and getting staff and students vaccinated all remain important safety measures. We are excited to offer the MI Backpack Home Tests program to you as one extra layer of safety.