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Dear Westhill Families,

The 2021-2022 school year is officially underway and we are incredibly excited to have our students back! As part of our Reopening Plan, and in partnership with Onondaga County Health Department (OCHD), we have been provided opportunities for testing students and staff.

### **Asymptomatic Group Surveillance Testing**

Westhill will offer frequent opportunities for asymptomatic testing. The “group” approach (also known as “pool”) is surveillance testing designed to check the status of a sample population of a school. Initially, we will work with OCHD to test weekly with a goal of having 10% of our students and staff tested.

This is voluntary and only occurs for students who have submitted a universal consent. Each week, a random draw will occur from the list of participants. Parents will be notified of their child’s participation. Should a group (typically 12 persons) test negative, there is no follow-up information. If a group tests positive, each of the twelve individuals will quarantine as the samples are then tested individually. All members of that group are contacted with the results, typically the next day. Individuals who are negative can then return to school.

The test used will be the Clarifi COVID-19 Saliva Test that is a very simple and painless saliva swab that the student can easily self-administer with supervision, as shown in [this short video](#).

In order to begin this process, parents willing to participate will need to register with the County selected vendor “Quadrant Laboratories, LLC” which can be [found here](#). (You may wish to preview [this video](#) which provides you an overview of the quick registration process.) Be sure to use the option “add a profile” for each child being registered. You will find the name of your individual school (Walberta Park, Onondaga Hill Middle, etc.) rather than Westhill CSD as a whole. (Note: you do not need to “add a covid-19 test” when prompted.) You will be asked to include information on health insurance, but you will not be billed due to the Federal Cares Act.

### **Symptomatic Testing**

Westhill will now also provide Clarifi COVID-19 Saliva Test for any individual who becomes symptomatic during the school day. This also requires consent from parents. As you remember from last school year, individuals developing symptoms during the day are sent to the health office, isolated, and parents are contacted to pick the student up from school. This new resource will provide the option for testing that will be sent directly to a lab for results. (NOTE: Individuals with symptoms should not report to a school building. Tests will only be available for persons developing symptoms during the course of the day.)

### **Universal Consent**

Please find the [Universal Consent Form here](#). With this form, you can sign-up for pooled (grouped random surveillance testing) OR diagnostic (symptomatic) testing OR both. If possible, please complete, sign, and print this form and return it to your school. A paper copy will be sent home with students later this week as well.

Please consider having your child participate in this school based testing program as part of our efforts to keep our students, staff, and community healthy and safe. Thank you for your ongoing support of our students and staff.

Continued Success,

Stephen R. Dunham