



SKYLINE HIGH SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



January 19, 2021

We have been working closely with the Granite School District and with the Department of Health as the number of positive cases has been rising over the past two weeks in our community. The new direction we have received from the Department of Health indicates that a school of our size must do one of two things if our cases rise above 1% of our total enrollment. We have breached that number today. The protocol indicates that we either have to suspend in-person learning for 10 days or conduct a test of the entire attending student body. I have spent the afternoon on phone calls, ZOOM meetings and email trying to get all the information needed so we can organize for the school-wide COVID-19 testing. We will be conducting that testing tomorrow and the next day if needed. This is a much better solution than dismissing school for that long.

Students and staff will come to school like normal and will go to class like normal. We will call students out by alphabet to report to the gymnasium where they will be able to get tested with a rapid return test. The results will be known in as little as 15 minutes for each person tested. After being tested, students will wait in the auditorium until they are made aware of the results of their test. If the test is negative, they will be given documentation of the result and they will be allowed to return to class. If the test is positive, the student will be isolated until they are able to go home. Students who test negative will need to retain their documentation so they can continue to attend school in-person.

We hope to be able to conduct this testing expeditiously so that the bulk of testing is complete by the end of the day tomorrow. The purpose of conducting this testing is to keep in-person learning happening as much as possible for as many students as possible. It will be somewhat disruptive throughout the day. That is much better than the disruption a 10-day dismissal might create. We are happy this is an option for our students.

If a student has a GTI class, is absent, or misses the test tomorrow for any reason they can be tested when they are back in classes at Skyline on Thursday, January 21st. We will continue testing then for anyone who missed testing on Wednesday. Any student not tested during these two days will need to participate in distance learning until Monday, February 1st.

Below is the letter you each received from the District explaining the protocols associated with this "Test to Stay" protocol. The most important thing everyone must complete in preparation for the testing tomorrow is the consent form. Please, make sure to do this for each of your Skyline students. If your student has participated in the testing for extra-curricular activities, you DO NOT need to complete the consent form again.

I want to thank our wonderful teachers who just keep teaching and helping students through the teaching and learning process despite all the change and disruption. They are amazing teachers and we are all so lucky that they do so much for our students.

Sincerely,
Mitch Nerdin, Principal

Dear Skyline High Families and Staff,

The District has been informed by Salt Lake County Health Department that your school has surpassed the 1% threshold to initiate a Test to Stay protocol (see attached letter and handout from Salt Lake County Health Department). Students will come to school tomorrow and Thursday (January 20-21st) as they normally would, and throughout the day, will have the opportunity to receive a rapid return test at the school (results within 15-30 minutes). Students who test negative, will be able to remain for in-person instruction. Those who test positive will be dismissed for isolation/quarantine under current protocols.

Testing IS NOT mandatory and parental consent is required (see below). Students/families who choose to not participate in the testing will be excused for distance learning until Monday, February 1st (including GTI and classes at other locations). Employees and distance learners and/or hybrid learners are encouraged to participate as well. If your student has previously been instructed to quarantine, please continue to adhere and complete your quarantine per the guidance provided by the Health Department.

Parents must complete the following consent form in order for their student to be tested. This should be completed prior to the start of school on Wednesday, January 20th. You can complete the consent form here at this link - <https://schools.graniteschools.org/skylinehigh/covid-testing/>. **IF YOU HAVE PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED CONSENT FOR TEST TO PLAY, you DO NOT need to authorize consent for Test to Stay.**

Students/families who do not wish to test, but need technological resources such as Chromebooks or Wi-Fi access, or need additional items from the school should reach out to the main office to make arrangements.

We continue to have extensive consultation with health officials regarding extracurricular activities (All UHSAA governed activities and dance/cheer teams). The Health Department does NOT currently recommend that those activities be dismissed as there are enhanced guidelines and restrictions including regular testing of those participants. However, spectators will not be permitted at ongoing competitions on school property with the exception of parents or guardians.

We continue to strongly encourage our students and families to adhere to current countywide health orders and avoid large gatherings and wear a mask in public in circumstances where social distancing is not possible. We appreciate your ongoing patience and support as we work to keep our students and staff safe in the midst of this pandemic.

Sincerely,

Granite School District