



August 31, 2021

To: Parent/Guardian of Sweetwater Athletes

From: Vernon Moore; Chief of Educational Equity and Support Services
Alex Estrada; Program Manager, Athletics

Subject: COVID 19 Pooled Testing for All Sweetwater Athletes

We are pleased to have begun the 2021-2022 school year with in-person instruction, and will continue our commitment to offer performing arts for our students. However, now more than ever - especially in light of the Delta variant and the rising rates of COVID-19 infection in our community, we must ensure a safe environment for employees, students, families, and our community. To support those goals, we have partnered with [Concentric by Ginkgo](#) to provide a free COVID-19 testing program at our school sites. While the District will soon be offering testing opportunities for all students, we are initially focusing these efforts on our students that are engaged in after-school extra-curricular activities such as our student-performers. **This letter is to inform you that we will be implementing a mandatory testing program for all students and coaches engaged in after-school performing arts, both at the High School and the Middle School level.**

Beginning a weekly testing program with this group of student leaders is consistent with guidance recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and the California Department of Public Health that participants be tested regularly because of their higher likelihood of exposure due to higher exertion levels, prolonged close contact to other participants and higher risk of transmission, especially for indoor activities.

Your student will not be required to test until the testing is available at your school site. The program has begun rolling out, starting at sites most impacted by COVID. Previously mandatory pooled testing started at Sweetwater High School and Eastlake Middle School. Beginning next week testing will expand to Chula Vista High School, Otay Ranch High School, and Montgomery High School. Olympian High School, Southwest High School and Bonita Vista High School and Middle School will follow thereafter. All other schools will be added by October 4th.

Testing will be free and you will not need to take students off campus to be tested--**students will be tested during school hours or during practice.**

To make this testing program successful, we need your help! We need you to complete the consent forms to participate--either online or in paper format. Completing them now will ensure when testing happens at your campus, everything will be ready to go.

If your school is already listed below, please log on to the link and digitally complete the consent request and read the attached overview from Concentric. If your school is not yet linked below or if you are unable to access the link, we have attached a paper copy of the background information and the consent form. Please submit paper consent forms to your coach.

Spanish: [Consent](#) English: [Consent](#)

Online Registration Process:

This process should take no more than 5 minutes to complete using a computer or a smartphone and only needs to be completed once this school year.

1. First, [click here](#)
Consent Link for **under 18 (minor) test takers**
Consent link for **over 18 test takers (staff)**
2. Then, enter this access code:
 - **Alta Vista Academy - SWEETWATER-AVA**
 - **Bonita Vista High School - SWEETWATER-BONITAHS**
 - **Bonita Vista Middle School - SWEETWATER-BONITA**
 - **Chula Vista High School - SWEETWATER-CVHS**
 - **East Hills Academy - SWEETWATER-EHA**
 - **Eastlake High School - SWEETWATER-ELH**
 - **Eastlake Middle School - SWEETWATER-ELM**
 - **Life School – SWEETWATER-LIFESCHOOL**
 - **Montgomery High School - SWEETWATER-MOHS**
 - **Olympian High School - SWEETWATER-OLYMPIAN**
 - **Options Secondary School - SWEETWATER-OPTIONS**
 - **Otay Ranch High School - SWEETWATER-OTAY**
 - **Palomar High School – SWEETWATER-PAH**
 - **Southwest High School - SWEETWATER-SWHS**
 - **Sweetwater High School - SWEETWATER-HS**

(If your school is a high school and not listed, please use the paper form at this time or check with your administrator. If your school is a middle school that is not listed, please wait on completing.)

3. Finally, enter your child's information, and you're done!

Note: If you need to provide consent for more than one child, please complete the process once for each child.

This consent form only needs to be completed once. It can also be utilized if your child needs to test as a result of being notified they are a close contact and need to complete a modified quarantine protocol to remain in in-person instruction due to exposure to a COVID positive individual.

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Pool Testing

What is pooled testing?

Pooling can test 25 people using one test. All students in a team, band, or class swab their own noses and place their swabs in a single tube (that's the pooling step). The samples in that tube are then run as a single sample, using one test. [See it in action here.](#)

Why pooled testing? Why should my student participate?

You know the old saying: "knowledge is power." Tools like pooled testing empower us to make great decisions. Without knowing the specific prevalence of COVID-19 in our school, it's tough for us to make informed decisions about safeguarding our school community, returning to school, or continuing performing arts participation.

Testing empowers us to make these informed decisions about rehearsals and allows students, teachers, and staff to participate in our activities with peace of mind.

To learn more about pooled testing, read the attached overview of Concentric's pooled testing program (**English** [\[Parent Info\]](#) **Spanish** [\[Parent Info\]](#)) and watch this [video](#) from another school using this service.

Will this Testing Satisfy the Requirement for Providing a Test Result to Continue In-Person Instruction if My Student Received a Close Contact Letter?

Yes, only one consent form is needed. Concentric will be on campus twice a week to provide testing for students who were in close contact during the period of their modified quarantine, so you will no longer need to take your child to receive a separate COVID test to comply with the requirements of this quarantine. However, during the modified quarantine, students may NOT participate in extracurricular activities (including after-school practices or rehearsals) and they will not need to also pool test with their group.

For more information, visit Concentric by Ginkgo's [website](#) or reach out to your student's athletic director.

Thank you.