

## Education Constituents Group – ELC School Reopening Program 9/7/21

During Governor Hochul's first day in office, [she announced a plan](#) to help support a safe return to school in the fall. To help ensure testing is available to students as they return to school, funds are being utilized to launch a COVID-19 Testing in Schools Program, also referred to as the [ELC School Reopening Program](#), in partnerships with local health departments and BOCES throughout New York State outside of New York City. New York City has received funds to initiate a COVID-19 Testing in Schools program. All K-12 schools, public, private, charter, and parochial are eligible to receive support through this initiative.

If your school/district operates in one of the counties listed below, please contact your county BOCES for more information.

- Montgomery and Fulton Counties: Hamilton-Fulton-Montgomery BOCES
- Herkimer County: Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES
- Madison County: Madison-Oneida BOCES
- Oneida County: Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES

**For schools/districts in all other counties, please [reach out to your local health department for more information](#) if you have not yet heard from them.** It is imperative that schools and local departments of health are working closely to ensure testing is available. **For schools operating in NYC, please contact the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene for information.**

The CDC recently released a COVID-19 [Testing Communication Toolkit for Schools](#) which provides helpful resources for communicating with parents, caregivers, staff, and students about COVID-19 school testing. This kit includes:

- Social media content that communicates the importance of COVID-19 school testing and can be shared on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook.
- Informational flyers to promote school COVID-19 testing programs and answer questions about COVID-19 school testing.
- Posters that highlight the benefits of COVID-19 testing programs in schools and portray in-person learning and activities.
- Customizable letters and FAQs for teachers, parents, and guardians that address frequently asked questions about school COVID-19 testing programs.