Email Template: Encouraging COVID-19 Testing in Schools

Perhaps you are eager to help advocate for the importance of COVID-19 testing in your child's school. We know that the information can seem confusing. We have listed several key points about why coronavirus testing is important to keep kids learning in the classroom. You might want to email this to your school's principal or district administrators.

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Subject Line: COVID-19 rates are dropping but we need to regularly test our children for COVID-19

Hello [insert school leader name],

We have all been impacted by COVID-19 and are continuing to deal with its effects on the quality of education for children and their families, and school staff. There is no doubt keeping children and teachers in the classroom should be top priority. Although COVID-19 cases have decreased, the pandemic is not over, and we must offer our children the best protection to avoid a breakout at school – and that starts with regular on-site testing for COVID-19.

We need regular COVID-19 testing for all students and school staff because:

- Variants may arise at any time – the Omicron variant was a factor in the closure of over 20,000 schools across the country, due outbreaks in kids and staff

- Almost half of children with COVID-19 show no or mild symptoms, but are still infected and can spread the virus to others

- COVID-19-specific prevention measures to help minimize the spread of the virus, such as masks and social distancing, have been eliminated in many schools

- Less than 60% of all school-aged children in the U.S. are vaccinated against coronavirus, making them more vulnerable to the effects of the virus

To help reduce the impact of COVID-19 on the school community, we need an effective strategy to identify those who are infected early before symptoms develop and regular on-site COVID-19 testing could be the answer. As a concerned parent, I am urging you to invest in a COVID-19 testing program to stay ahead of an outbreak and help keep our children out of harm's way.

Luckily, testing in K-12 schools is supported by government funds, making it more affordable. Our state has received millions of dollars to use for school COVID-19 testing programs and I recommend exploring Open and Safe Schools.org to learn about the funding and how we can use it to support coronavirus testing in our school.

Parents want to feel confident that schools will stay open and that our children's health is a priority for [insert name of school]. I hope you will consider supporting testing, and I along with our school community stand ready to help in any way possible.

Thank you,

[insert your name]