

March 3, 2021

Dear Families,

Grace is committed to providing the safest possible environment for our students and staff. Data show that regular surveillance testing adds an important layer of mitigation by identifying asymptomatic cases. Therefore, through the end of April, Grace is asking all families to provide a weekly (PCR) covid test result.

To make testing more convenient, we have contracted with [Virant Diagnostics](#) to provide weekly on-site (PCR) covid testing. Locally based in Wheaton, MD, Virant will provide PCR tests to test students and staff, and same day lab results which will be shared with families through a secure web portal. Testing fees will be submitted directly through your insurance.

**Virant Registration: Families that choose to participate will need to register by Monday, March 8 at 12:00 noon.** Virant has provided us with a [registration video](#) to help guide you through the process. Registration takes about 5 minutes. You will be asked to select an appointment date for your student. You will also need to grant consent to the lab to share results with Grace. Please follow this schedule:

- Tuesday, March 9 (8:30 am-9:00 am): Preschool, PreKindergarten, Kindergarten, and Grade 1
- Wednesday, March 10 (8:30 am-9:00 am): Grades 2-5:

*Please Note:* Registration is not complete until you see a page that says “*Appointment Confirmed.*”

*Virant Testing:* Virant uses a nasal swab technique that collects material from just inside a patient’s nose. It is far less invasive than other testing methods. Registered students will be tested during morning arrival in either the MPR (Kindergarten-Grade 5) or the main hallway (Preschool and Prekindergarten).

*Insurance:* Virant will bill your insurance directly. If your insurance company pays only a portion of the contracted fee (\$150), Virant will not bill you for your copay or coinsurance amount. If you have a high deductible and/or your deductible has not yet been met, contacting your insurance company in advance is advised since they might bill you for the testing. In this instance, it might make more sense financially to continue surveillance testing through county or state facilities. If you don’t have insurance but would like to participate in the Virant program, please contact Noelle McHugh at [nmchugh@geds.org](mailto:nmchugh@geds.org).

We are thrilled to be able to offer this convenient testing option on campus and to bring regular surveillance testing to our community as we increase our in-person instruction. Please contact Noelle Mchugh or Jen Danish if you have any further questions.

Jen Danish