



September 8, 2021

Dear Families,

Many of you have expressed concerns about not having enough COVID testing in New York City public schools. I feel the same way.

This weekend, I started a petition for New York City Department of Education employees. Yesterday, I wrote an opinion piece. [You can read it in today's *Daily News*.](#)

You can [share the petition with employees of the New York City public schools](#), and share the *Daily News* piece with everyone. The *most* important action you can take is to get your family tested.

Last week, elementary school children had the highest COVID rates in New York City. Newborns to pre-K had the second-highest COVID rates. We have just a few more days to test for the virus before children come together on the first day.

This week, on Thursday or Friday, get COVID tests for your children and yourself. If you test on Thursday or Friday, you probably will get results before the first day of school.

Every family's health connects to the rest of the community. We can protect each other by checking for the virus before it enters our classrooms.

You don't need insurance to get free COVID testing. No one asks your immigration status.

Usually, mobile testing sites have no lines. Here are East Harlem's mobile sites this week.

Wednesday - Friday	Thursday	Saturday	Sunday
LSA Family Health	African Heritage Resource Fair	First Spanish UMC	Greater Highway Deliverance
East 115th street & First Avenue	Duke Ellington Circle Fifth Avenue & 110 Street	East 111 Street & Lexington Avenue	132 East 111 Street
8:00 am – 7:00 pm		8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.	10:00 am – 5:00 pm

[You can find mobile sites in other neighborhoods, plus free hospital testing, by clicking here.](#)

Testing should be the responsibility of the school system. Schools do not ask families to bring fire extinguishers to the hallways or thermometers to the nurse's office, and I should not have to ask you for COVID tests to protect safety. But the city hasn't given us enough testing yet. So CPE1 is counting on you.

Thank you for getting your child a COVID test Thursday or Friday. Thank you for taking action. Thank you for making our community safer.

Gabriel