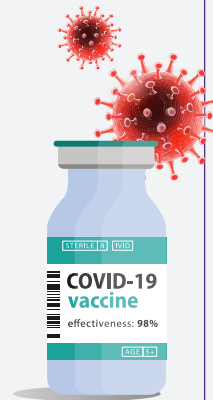# Benefits of Getting Vaccinated and Participating In School District Covid-testing Programs

Vaccinations work! They have repeatedly been proven to be safe and effective in protecting health. They also reduce the impact of COVID-19 and its variants, and decrease COVID-19 transmission and hospitalization rates.

Our school district's COVID-19 Test-to-Stay Program and the PCR Saliva-Testing Program help keep as many students and staff in school as possible. In-person education is vital to our students' advancement academically, socially, and emotionally.

If you get your COVID-19 vaccine, you will:

1. **Greatly reduce the chances that you or others around you will get infected.**

2. **Help us reach community immunity and safeguard our vulnerable neighbors.**

3. **Make sure our schools, businesses and communities can reopen safely.**

4. **Put us one step closer to ending the pandemic.**

The Test-to-Stay Program: Allows only unvaccinated students and employees who had direct contact at school with someone COVID-positive to take what is known as a rapid-result test administered by the school district. If negative, the student or employee remains in school while asymptomatic.

PCR Saliva Test Program: This test, offered in rotating weekly cycles, is voluntary for most, but mandatory for middle and high school students in sports and certain elevated-risk extracurricular activities.

Please get vaccinated and booster shots! Vaccinations are now available to everyone age 5 and older.

APPOINTMENTS
Adults:
https://covid19.montefiore.org/covid-19-vaccine
Children ages 5-11:
Call Montefiore New Rochelle Hospital, (914) 701-1700, ext. 1. For Maria Fareri Children's Hospital, visit https://am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov

COVID RESOURCES
- To address inquiries about children's vaccinations, Westchester County has created a list of Frequently Asked Questions and Answers. Please visit https://5il.co/128fk
- Westchester County Department of Health's website: https://health.westchestergov.com