

**August 16, 2023 Agenda Review Committee Meeting Written Comments
Received between Monday, August 14th and Thursday, August 17th
Submitted via Written Comments Form**

1 I'm concerned about Agenda Item #7: Authorize a New Agreement with Fisher Scientific Company L.L.C. for the Purchase of Covid Testing and Services.

My issue with only rapid tests are:

"Rapid tests work much better when taken three times over the course of several days."

⚠️ Rapid COVID tests miss 90% of asymptomatic cases
<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-023-02254-9>

It has also been proven that swabbing both throat and nose yields more accurate results. Most people haven't been told this vital piece of information and aren't aware of it.

Using rapid tests? N.S. Health now recommends swabbing both throat and nose
Combined swab detected 88.7% of cases compared to 64.5% from nasal or throat swab alone
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/ns-combined-nose-throat-rapid-test-more-accurate-1.6322961>

A big problem with rapid tests only being taken at home is that some parents have straight up lied about their children being sick in the first place, so this decision doesn't much inspire confidence:

⚠️ Some parents misled others about their kids' covid status, study finds
Some also did not follow quarantine guidelines. The parents' behaviors could have contributed to the spread of the coronavirus, the study's authors said. FREE 📄 article:
<https://wapo.st/3OC2Dqg>

Telling people to just "stay home if sick" omits the fact that over half of Covid spread is asymptomatic. Our local UChicago Medicine published it's findings back in May, 2021. Several other studies prove the same thing.

⚠️ Asymptomatic coronavirus infections contribute to over 50% of spread, according to UChicago Medicine study <https://www.uchicagomedicine.org/forefront/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/asymptomatic-coronavirus-infections-contribute-to-over-50-percent-of-spread>

Quiet as it has been kept, Illinois Schools Likely Biggest Culprit Of COVID Exposure: IDPH
<https://patch.com/illinois/chicago/illinois-schools-likely-biggest-culprit-covid-exposure-idph>

⚠️ More than 70% of US household COVID spread started with a child, study suggests
<https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/covid-19/more-70-us-household-covid-spread-started-child-study-suggests>

2 What is being done to provide bus service for the thousands of students who are without buses? If there are no buses for Selective Enrollment/ Magnet students this year, WHERE IS THAT MONEY GOING? Are you actively trying to find more bus drivers for this year? Will the money for this bus service stay in the budget for next year? Our son attends a selective enrollment school that is a 25 minute drive from our daughter's neighborhood school. The schools start and end at the exact same time. I have a part time job and my husband has an extremely flexible job and it is still INCREDIBLY difficult to figure out transportation for them to arrive to school on time and be picked up on time. We are going to end up paying for after school care which we would not need if the promised bus service was provided. A \$35/month Ventra card is worthless to us. If we took public transportation to and from school with our 7 year old, it would take almost FOUR HOURS OF TRAVEL TIME A DAY. FOUR HOURS. We are lucky enough to have a car, but are still scrambling to figure this out and as mentioned will end up spending much more money on gas, car pooling, and after care that we would not need if you provided the bus service that was promised when we enrolled our son as a kindergartener. BUS SERVICE NEEDS TO BE A TOP PRIORITY FOR CPS. Selective enrollment and magnet school can not survive without buses. If you are not going to provide bussing, the money should go to the schools to provide free before and after care for students. Again though, BUS SERVICE NEEDS TO BE A PRIORITY.
