

TEST AND STAY PROGRAM

Holbrook Public Schools

Date: Sept. 14, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Thank you for your continued support as we begin the 2021-2022 school year. In Holbrook, keeping your students safe and in school is our top priority. We have learned a great deal over this past year and our current guidance and procedures reflect the most updated recommendations from the CDC and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

For the 2021-22 school year, we are offering an extra layer of protection to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at school. This Test & Stay Program includes symptomatic testing for students who show symptoms of COVID-19 at school as well as for students who may have been exposed while in school but are not showing symptoms. Each of these tests involves a quick, non-invasive nasal swab that is collected under the supervision of a school nurse or trained health provider. Unlike COVID-19 tests of the past, these tests are done quickly and designed to be easy for students to do themselves in most cases.

Students will only be allowed to participate with permission from a parent or guardian. It is important to Holbrook that you are fully informed regarding the process, and that we can answer any questions you might have in advance of asking you to sign the consent form. Below is a description of each part of our testing program, how they are conducted, and what they are used for.

- **Symptomatic testing** Students should not come to school if they are already feeling sick at home, however, if a student exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 while at school, symptomatic testing can be done to confirm or rule out COVID-19. Some symptoms of the virus look identical to other illnesses like the cold or flu, and this test tells us whether a symptomatic student has COVID-19 or not. This is a rapid test, and we receive the results of this test within 15 minutes. If a student has minimal symptoms and tests negative, they can remain in school. Students who are already at home (due to sickness) should not come to campus for rapid testing.
- **Test and stay** allows students who have had close contact with a person who tested positive for COVID-19 while at school to stay in school if the student is not showing symptoms. Instead of needing to quarantine and miss school, these students will take a daily rapid test while they remain in school as long as they are not symptomatic. Students must participate in test and stay for at least five days after a potential school exposure.

If a student tests positive for COVID-19, they must quarantine at home for the CDC-recommended ten days since symptoms appeared or ten days since the positive test before returning to school. The student must also be without a fever for 24 hours before returning to

school.

Although students who are vaccinated are much less likely to spread or contract the virus, it is important for us to create an inclusive environment for both vaccinated and unvaccinated students.

To participate in the program, parents and guardians must click the link at the bottom of this page and electronically sign the consent form on behalf of your student(s). There is no charge for participating. If you have additional questions regarding the program, please contact the health office at your child's school.

It is our hope that these measures will work together to keep our schools safe and your student in school. Thank you again for your support during this challenging time!

Sincerely,

Julie S. Hamilton

Superintendent of Schools

Click on link to access the consent portal: <https://www.cic-health.com/consent/ma>