

Dear Weston Public Schools Community,

We are writing to let you know that, in accordance with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) testing initiative, starting next week Weston Public schools will be adopting the [State's new COVID-19 testing program](#) for K-12 schools which involves the scheduled distribution of at-home antigen tests to students and staff.

We are opting into this at-home testing program as a means of increasing testing opportunities for students and staff, regardless of vaccination status. **This new at-home testing opportunity is voluntary and only those who sign up/opt-in will receive tests.** PLEASE opt-in to this new at-home testing program using the following google form:

### [Weston Public Schools Rapid Antigen Testing Opt-In Form](#)

As part of this shift in the statewide program, we are discontinuing both the Test and Stay program, which included only unvaccinated students and staff, and contact tracing for in-school contacts. Data has shown that in-school transmission of COVID-19 occurs very rarely. Therefore, beginning February 1st if a child is an asymptomatic close contact in school, they may continue to come to school and do not have to quarantine. For more info about updates to the statewide program, please [click here](#) or contact Health Services Director [Jamy Gaynor](#). In addition to this new at-home testing program starting next week; we will continue pooled testing, reflex testing for positive pools, and testing of symptomatic individuals. Available testing will include:

1. **At-Home Rapid Antigen Testing** on SUNDAY NIGHT (*must opt in using the [form linked above](#)*)
2. **Routine COVID Safety Checks** every week (*If you have not yet signed up, [click here](#)*)
3. **Symptomatic Testing** (*If you have not yet signed up, [click here](#)*)

### [Overview of the New At Home Rapid Antigen Testing Program:](#)

- **About the Test:** [iHealth](#) is a 15-minute at-home FDA-approved rapid antigen test. [Click here](#) for a full "how to" written guide in various languages and [click here](#) for a video of an individual doing a self-test.
- **Opt-In:** To participate, you must opt in using the link above. **PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO DO SO NOW.** By opting in, you will agree to review the training materials for test administration, report positive test results to your/your student's school, and administer tests according to our school district guidelines.
- **Weekly:** Every two weeks you will receive an iHealth at-home rapid test kit. Each kit contains two individual tests. Students/Staff will administer one at-home rapid test each week on **SUNDAY NIGHT.**
- **Reporting Positive Test Results:** If students/staff test positive on an at-home antigen test, you must inform their school of the positive result using the [Positive Test Result Notification form](#). It is strongly recommended to inform your primary care provider or other healthcare professional of positive results.
- **Confidentiality:** Positive test results are shared with your school district for informational purposes only. Individual results will remain confidential, and they will never be made public.
- **Easy, Free, and Flexible:** This test is administered at home (not school), reducing the burden on school staff and time to administer tests and increasing a family's flexibility to do testing in the home for free.