



COVID-19 TESTING UPDATE

WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Good Evening Parents, Guardians, and Staff.

The Weston Public Schools has committed to a goal of 180 in-person school days for the 2021-2022 school year. Despite the blow COVID-19 has dealt to our community, we have overcome many of these obstacles by adhering to evidence-based mitigation measures including masking, spacing, staying home when sick, and testing. We thank you for your continued support and understanding.

We opted to align with the state run CIC Health testing platform at the beginning of the school year. We, as with numerous districts throughout the state, have run up against substantial setbacks with the testing platform roll-out. With the help of the state provided testers and the district nurses we were able to pivot back to the Project Beacon platform for two weeks, testing over 1500 students and staff. Last week we were assured by the CIC Health administrators the platform and testers were ready to “go-live” with the state testing model. While there were some kinks in the process, we were able to successfully provide routine safety testing (a.k.a. pool testing) at all of our schools last week. In addition, we successfully identified and isolated an asymptomatic individual through this testing platform. This coming week we are planning to move forward with the CIC testing format which includes: 1) routine safety testing, 2) test-to-stay, and 3) symptomatic testing at all of our schools. We have been assured that three additional testers and a new program coordinator will be on site by the end of the week.

Several changes to the program were identified and will be implemented moving forward to improve efficiency and reduce out-of-class time:

Changes to Testing Dates and Locations:

Routine testing will be performed with a focus on one school daily. Testing days and locations are listed below:

[Please note, due to the holiday today, both HS & MS students will test tomorrow, Oct. 12th.]

School	WHS	WMS	FS	WS	CS
Testing Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Location	Assistant Principal's Conference Room	Room 102	Classroom	Classroom	Classroom

Format	Drop-in 8:00-3:30	Drop-in 8:00-3:30	Classroom-to -classroom	Classroom-to -classroom	Classroom-to -classroom
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*****Please note - weekly testing is mandated for all athletes at the Middle School and High School as a requisite to play*****

Changes to Testing Process:

In alignment with both CIC and DESE recommendations we will be changing our process for follow-up testing for positive pooled samples from PCR to Rapid Antigen (BinaxNOW). A delay in processing time with the double swab method of sampling was identified at the state level. The suggestion to change from PCR swab to Rapid Antigen was disseminated to districts September 28th. This change will be effective this week. All students and staff participating in weekly screening will complete sampling using one swab only.

Changes to Reporting Process:

As we move forward with weekly safety screening through CIC Health you will no longer receive an individual result. Weekly screening combines 5-10 samples and therefore a “negative” result is reflective of the collective sample and not the individuals sampled. So as the adage goes “no news is good news”. Only those individuals identified as part of a positive screening will be notified.

Changes to Participation Process:

Our previous platform, Project Beacon, allowed for verbal consent for participation. CIC Health does not allow verbal consent for participation. If you want to participate in weekly testing, you must enroll using the [CIC Health Consent Form](#). Any student or staff for whom consent has not been received will be turned away by the state testers. Please contact your building nurse, or the [Director of Health Services, Jamy Gaynor](#) with any questions or concerns you may have.

Again, we thank you for your continued support and adherence to these mitigation measures. Your participation in weekly testing supports continued safety within the district as well as providing data that can be used to adjust our practices moving forward. Our goal is at least 65% participation in all schools. Currently our student participation rates are as follows:

School	WHS	WMS	FS	WS	CS
Level of Participation	57%	73%	73%	74%	75%

Together we can achieve our goal of 180 in-person school days safely.

Kindly,

Jamy Gaynor, Ed.D., MS, RN, NCSN
Director of Health Services