



## COVID-19 TESTING UPDATE

WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OCTOBER 17, 2021

Good Evening Parents, Guardians, and Staff.

We are pleased to announce a second successful week of testing using the state CIC platform. We screened a total of 800 individuals this week and had enrollment increases at all schools. Thank you to all who tested and to all who heard our plea and enrolled.

Additional changes to the program were identified this week. Specifically, we would like to make it easier for the students and staff at the secondary level to participate:

### **Changes to Testing Dates and Locations:**

Routine testing days and locations are listed below (changes noted in red):

School	WHS	WMS	FS	WS	CS
Testing Day	Monday & Tuesday	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

We are hopeful the addition of another testing day at the secondary level will make it more feasible for students and staff to participate in weekly testing. Overhead announcements, signage, and hallway screen displays will support this effort.

***\*\*Please note - weekly testing is mandated for all athletes at the Middle School and High School as a requisite to play\*\****

### **Additional Testing Services Available:**

As the cold and flu season is upon us, it is imperative that students and staff remain home if they are ill. Symptoms of COVID-19 mimic those of cold and flu in both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. Despite the need for additional testing support, those seeking testing are often met with limited availability at testing sites and inconvenient testing locations. PCR testing for symptomatic students and staff who remain home is available through the Project Beacon Platform.

***If you are symptomatic, please stay home and contact your school nurse or the Director of Health Services for testing options.***

In addition to symptomatic testing, 'Day 5 or later testing' is available to those individuals who are part of a home-based quarantine. This testing will potentially allow home-based quarantining persons to return to work and school earlier than the traditional 10 day quarantine if they are asymptomatic and test negative on Day 5 or later of their quarantine period.

***If you require Day 5 testing, please contact your school nurse or the Director of Health Services for testing options.***

***\*\*Close Contacts are identified by the Local Board of Health (LBOH) and will be notified of their status. If you have not been contacted by a LBOH you have not been identified as a close contact. Please contact your school nurse with questions.\*\****

**Reminder About 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.

Your participation in weekly testing supports continued safety within the district as well as providing data that can be used to adjust our practices (such as masking) 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	62%	79%	83%	81%	83%

**Updates to the Weekly COVID Dashboard:**

We have updated the COVID dashboard to include the following information by school:

1. Weekly Number of Positive Pools
2. Total Number of Individuals Participating in Pool Testing
3. Total Number of Individuals Participating in Test-to-Stay
4. Total Number of Symptomatic Individuals Tested
5. % of Students and Staff Enrolled in Weekly Testing
6. % of Students and Staff Fully Vaccinated

The COVID dashboard will be updated on Saturday or Sunday moving forward depending upon the timing of the results from Friday's testing.

Again, we thank you for your continued support and adherence to these mitigation measures. 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