

Dear Weston School Community,

As a district we have remained solid and steadfast in our approach at data and science based measures to best mitigate our risk in efforts to better protect our community. We have become increasingly vigilant and planful over the past few weeks as case rates climb. We all understand that the current strain of the virus while presenting with minimal to moderate symptoms is ever more widespread across the Commonwealth and the country even among the vaccinated. We also know that vaccination works as the impact is minimal for those who are vaccinated and/or boosted, with many reporting no symptoms, some reporting slight fever, cold symptoms, headache and some sharing accounts of fatigue.

We have been closely monitoring the infection rates of employees and families and the positivity level in our schools for students and employees remains very low and as a result **Weston Public School will open as scheduled tomorrow at the regular time.** We will be continuing with the mitigating factors we have had in place all year:

**Testing:** As a public school system we use the CIC testing platform which uses state sponsored pooled testing and state employees to carry out weekly COVID safety screenings. We continue to supplement the state platform with Project Beacon, who continues to partner with us to provide drive-up PCR testing for symptomatic students who are appropriately remaining home. In addition to routine testing, we are actively testing and monitoring positivity rates amongst our students who perform in higher risk activities such as athletics and orchestra and wind ensembles.

Recently, the state has partnered with us to provide rapid testing to staff. The majority of those tests were distributed today for staff use. We also tested over 200 staff today using our Project Platform. We have moved the weekly COVID screenings toward the beginning of the week to better assist with identification and isolation of asymptomatic students and staff for the next several weeks (register [here](#) if not already registered). Changes to the testing dates can be seen in the table below. We have also put in place increased reminders for testing at the secondary level, including frequent reminders over the PA system, classroom/lunch/study based reminders, and manual and electronic signage.

School	WHS	WMS	FS	WS	CS
Testing Day	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday (12:30 - 3:30)	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday (12:30 - 3:30)	Tuesday or Wednesday	Monday	Tuesday
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

\*Please note the testing schedule may change based on CIC Health staffing levels on any given day.

**Masking:** We ask that if you have a KN95 mask for your child(ren) please have them wear those for the next few weeks. If you do not have a KN95 mask, then you may want your child to double mask as an extra safety precaution over the next few weeks. There are some KN95 masks available at the secondary level and a student would need to go to the nurse's office to procure one. We do not have the correct size available for younger children but do have the blue commercial masks on hand to be distributed so double masking can be an accessible alternative for our younger students. Here are the CDC guidelines to [wear masks properly](#).

**Distancing:** We will continue to assist students in remaining safely socially distanced whenever possible. Weather permitting, when appropriate and safe to do so, we will have students outside for mask breaks, recess, and lunch.

**Staying Home When Sick:** We ask that if your child(ren) is ill that you please keep your child home and contact your building-based school nurse to arrange for testing. As stated previously, many of the COVID-19 symptoms experienced by those who are vaccinated are minimal and can mimic the common cold or allergies. We ask that you continue to adhere to our plea to keep your children home if they are experiencing symptoms, and contact us to assist with testing arrangements.

As we said last week, in this context we want to make clear that we are making all decisions as a district using a framework guided by the following objectives:

- (1) keeping students learning in person in school;**
- (2) keeping extracurricular activities open and available to the fullest extent possible; and**
- (3) keeping our school community safe.**

If the numbers of positive cases rise among our employees or student body in such a way that would warrant a school closure or a switch to a remote learning environment, we are ready to do so. **The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has made it quite clear that if we have numbers that can support in-person learning then that is what we MUST do.**

There is no question that we once again find ourselves in unsettling, complex times and together we will make it through.

Thank you for your continued partnership,

The Administrative Team  
Weston Public Schools