



# WESTON HIGH SCHOOL

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Hello Wildcat Students and Families-

Hope you are enjoying those moments of sunshine and warmth! It is our understanding and hope that more of that is on its way...

Today we have three pieces to the Monday Memo:

1. This week's schedule
2. Pool Testing Information
3. AP Testing 2021

**Schedule:** It is our second week of the 'all-in' schedule and Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday of this week will be Day 2 (3/30), Day 5 (3/31), Day 4 (4/1).

We do not have school on Friday, April 2nd due to Good Friday.

**Pool Testing:**

We are offering weekly pooled testing for all students and staff, in-school, during the school day.

- Effective March 31st, weekly asymptomatic PCR testing of students and families is discontinued and replaced with a program that includes pooled testing of students and staff only.
- Pooled (5 to 10 students) test results are reported to the school nurse, not the family.
- A positive pool result triggers an immediate round of tests for that pool of students. A negative second test (15 minute antigen using the Abbot BinaxNow) places the student(s) back in class.
- A student/staff member with a positive second test will be dismissed home immediately and the positive results of the individual will be provided to local public health for isolation and contact tracing/quarantine of close contacts.
- Testing is mandated for participation in athletics and band/chorus programs at both the Middle and High Schools.
- Participation is strongly recommended for all students, faculty and staff at all Weston Public Schools.
- All other risk mitigation measures and COVID-19 safety protocols remain in place including mandatory mask-wearing.

*For Athletes and Musicians:*

Mandated, weekly asymptomatic PCR pooled testing. Information about the process has been sent by the Athletic Director, Michael McGrath, and Music Director, Chris Memoli. Due to either the increased risk or possible increased incidence of close contact with others garnered by athletes or musicians the School Committee is requiring participation in testing by these individuals.

We strongly encourage all Staff and Students to participate in the COVID-19 testing program provided by the Weston Public Schools. You should have received an email invitation with organizational codes needed to register for our testing platforms from Project Beacon. You must register/provide consent for yourself/minor student(s) to participate. [Link to Registration Information Project Beacon](#)

For those who are currently enrolled in the platform, additional (pooled testing) profiles for each student/staff MUST be made prior to accessing testing. Registration information, including organizational codes, for students and staff has been sent in a separate notification.

During the registration process you will be asked to complete a consent document. This consent serves two purposes; first, it serves as a consent for testing, which gives the school permission to test you or your student. Second, it serves as a consent to report results to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and to the Board of Health in Weston and where you/your student lives. As COVID-19 is a reportable disease as mandated by the state of Massachusetts, to access testing, you must agree to the reporting of results.

*Testing Process:* Students and staff who opt into this program will have the ability to test weekly during the school day. The sampling technique remains the same, a cotton swab rotated around the lower aspect of each nostril.

- Students in grades 2-12 and staff are able to self swab if they so choose. Students and staff will be directed to the sampling area (the assistant principal's conference room) at predetermined times.
- The average sampling time is less than 5 seconds from the time of arrival to the testing area. Sampling Analysis: Swabs will be collected (pooled) in groups of 10. Meaning all 10 swabs will be run together. Unlike the current individual PCR testing program where your individually sampled swab is placed in a collection tube that is assigned specifically to you, 10 individually collected swabs are placed into one collection tube. All completed samples are transported to the lab and analyzed together.
- As with the current testing program, results will be received within 24-48 hours; however, the results of each pool will be sent to the school and not to your individual accounts.
- Negative Pool: The school nurse will be notified of the negative pool results.
- Parents/Staff will not be notified of the weekly result unless the result is positive. Students/Staff will be sampled again the following week and will

not have to schedule weekly pooled testing once you/your student is signed up/consented for participation.

- Positive Pool in School: The school nurse will be notified of any positive pool results.
- The individuals within a positive pool will be brought to the medical waiting area and a rapid antigen test (Abbott BinaxNOW) test will be performed. Those students who result negative will be returned to class. Those students who result positive will be sent home to begin isolation. In addition, contact tracing of the positive student will commence and close contacts will be dismissed from school to begin quarantine. The Weston Board of Health will work with any/all positive individuals and their close contacts to stop the spread of Coronavirus.
- Students who do not participate in the pooled testing program and are identified as close contacts of a COVID positive individual MUST quarantine in accordance with Department of Public Health guidance.
- The District Dashboard provides weekly testing numbers.

**\*\*Please note isolation and quarantine guidance has not changed. Any individual (staff or student) who has tested positive or has been identified as a close contact (being within 6 feet of a COVID-19 positive individual for a cumulative total of 15 minutes over 24 hours, masked or unmasked, inside or outside beginning two days before symptom onset or positive test date for asymptomatic individuals.) MUST leave school as soon as possible and follow public health required isolation/quarantine requirements.\*\***

**AP Testing 2021**: For our students taking the AP exams this year and looking for additional information, please click on the links below. The calendar information has been shared in classrooms, on our website, through our school's announcement emails, and in Parent Coffee Talks. For further information, please see the links listed below.

[Letter regarding AP testing can be found here](#)

[The MCAS/AP testing calendar can be found here](#)

Truly and Sincerely,

Paul Peri and Kelly Flynn

@WestonHS1