

Dear Weston School Community,

I hope that this communication finds you resting and enjoying December break. I want to share with you the new isolation guidelines, and reminders about testing options and masking for students upon return to school. Detailed information on these changes is located on [Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov) site.

## **Isolation**

Moving forward, all individuals who test positive for COVID-19 must begin a mandatory **5 day** isolation per [CDC guidance](https://www.cdc.gov). Those individuals who are asymptomatic on Day 5 may return to work and school on Day 6 of isolation. Any individual who plans on returning to school on Day 6 **MUST** speak with their school nurse or the Director of Health Services, Jamy Gaynor, prior to their return.

During the remaining isolation period (Days 6-10) if any symptoms are experienced the individual **MUST** stay home and contact the school nurse for next steps. Furthermore, all individuals returning on Day 6 **MUST** wear a tightly fitted mask at all times on Days 6-10 both indoors and outside when around others with the exception of lunch and snack breaks.

## **Quarantine**

There are currently no changes to quarantine guidance for K-12 schools.

Any individual who is identified as a close contact within the school setting and is not vaccinated must quarantine at home but may attend school using the test-to-stay program.

Any individual who is identified as a close contact outside of the school setting and is not vaccinated must quarantine at home per local Board of Health guidance.

Any individual who is fully vaccinated and is identified as a close contact either in school or outside of school can attend school if they are asymptomatic AND vaccinated students should test through the district's Day 5 testing program.

As with isolating individuals, if vaccinated close contacts develop symptoms they **MUST** stay home and contact their school nurse for testing.

## **Testing**

We will continue our testing protocols upon our return on Monday, January 3rd. All students who are [registered through the CIC platform](#) are eligible to participate in pooled testing.

Individuals who have symptoms should stay home, contact their school nurse, and schedule a drive-by test using the Project Beacon PCR platform. Those individuals who become symptomatic while at school will be tested using a rapid antigen BinaxNOW test and depending on the symptoms may be sent home even if they test negative.

In addition, we have identified multiple cases on a few of the athletic teams prior to the break. As a precaution, practices and meets were canceled until next week. Testing for athletes is mandatory and all athletes must test on Monday or Tuesday of next week with the exception of those who have tested positive within the last three months. An additional communication addressing the swim team will be forthcoming.

I am aware that there is a national shortage on testing and testing sites, but if you have access to testing (either PCR, rapid PRC, or rapid antigen) it would be advised that you have your child(ren) take a test prior to returning to school. A current listing of testing sites is located [here](#). Please forward documentation of negative test results to your school nurse or the Director of Health Services, Jamy Gaynor, prior to our return on Monday.

## **Masking**

We appreciate the efforts that have been put forth by all to continue to care for themselves and others by wearing masks. We will continue to require masks at all levels and will monitor infection rates and other metrics in the coming weeks.

I am aware that these changes come at an inopportune time as many are away and have limited access to emails. Further discussion of changes will be presented at our upcoming School Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 4th at 7PM. If you have any further questions or would like advice regarding your individual or family circumstances as they pertain to these changes, please do not hesitate to contact me or our Director or Health Services, [Jamy Gaynor](#).

I hope you enjoy the rest of vacation and keep healthy and safe.

Best,  
Dr. Midge Connolly