



Update on K-12 testing program

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Today's presentation

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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Resources for contact tracing

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Standardized spreadsheet

- In spring 2021, physicians from MGH studied the prevalence and risk factors for in-school transmission of COVID-19 in MA K-12 public schools. (Publish date TBD)
 - Results of the study demonstrated the secondary attack rate among students and staff exposed in school to people with COVID-19 during the infectious period was low (2.2%) and similar to other studies of public schools.
- 8 districts participated and compiled data using a **standardized spreadsheet for reporting de-identified information about COVID-19 cases in schools and their school-based close contacts.**
 - This spreadsheet is being shared as a resource for districts and schools to use during the 2021-22 school year.



02

Further info on eMed at home tests

Uses for the eMed tests

- EMed tests **should be used** if an individual who is currently in the **Test and Stay** protocol is participating in an athletic or extracurricular activity **on a weekend or non-school day**.
 - In this case, the individual should receive one eMed test kit to take home on the last day of school prior to the non-school day activity, and take the test on the same day as, but prior to arriving at, the event.
 - If the test is negative the individual should show the negative result to school staff (coaches, etc) and is cleared to participate. The individual should remain masked.
 - If the test is positive, the individual should be treated as a positive case.



Requesting eMed tests

- This afternoon, CIC Health will circulate **a link to a survey where districts can request eMed tests.**
 - Schools/districts will receive a **fixed supply of tests based on the size of their school population.**
 - If a school needs additional tests in the future, they should work with their CIC program coordinator to order more tests.
 - **For school districts:** tests should be ordered at the district level and each application must identify a single “hub” to where the tests will be delivered.
 - Please note this is the same process followed for traditional BinaxNOW tests.
- Frequently asked questions regarding the eMed test may be found on the DESE testing website: <https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/testing/>

03

Review of FAQs on testing and protocols

Level 2 Support Services

- **When will I receive my on-site support services from CIC Health?**
 - To date, DESE/EHS have **received over 530 applications** to participate in a component of the Testing program, totaling over 2,000 schools enrolling over 800,000 students
 - If you have applied to the program, **you will hear from CIC Health within 48 hours** with a welcome email. The **email will include instructions** on how to begin training and order BinaxNOW/eMed tests
 - CIC Health is working hard to get **all necessary supports in place to support districts/schools in their testing efforts.**
 - In rare cases, on-site support services (e.g., specimen collectors) **may be delayed to start the school year.** All schools that requested these services **will receive them in the coming weeks.**
 - In cases where on-site services are delayed, **districts/schools will have the tools** – BinaxNOW tests, technology platform, pooled testing kits, and courier services – **to conduct some testing if they wish to do so.**
 - If a school does not wish to begin testing until all on-site support services are in place, they may use the intervening time to **build family buy-in and gather consents for the testing program.**



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Shah Family Foundation resources

Testing 101, comms guides, examples, templates

Join us as we take the #Testing101 to keep our school community safe!

What is COVID-19?
The virus that causes COVID-19 can spread through respiratory droplets when an infected person sneezes, coughs, or talks. It can also be spread by touching surfaces that have been contaminated with the virus. People who are infected may not know they are infected until they start to feel sick. Some people may not get sick at all.

What is the COVID-19 vaccine?
COVID-19 vaccines are authorized after an emergency use authorization by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The first vaccine was authorized in December 2020. The FDA continues to monitor the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine as it is used.

What is a COVID-19 test?
A quick test, either a simple antigen test, or a more complex PCR test, can tell whether you have the virus that causes COVID-19.

Why is our school testing?
Testing helps us catch any cases of COVID-19 before they become widespread in our school. It also helps us understand how the virus is spreading in our school. This information allows us to take steps to reduce the spread of the virus, such as increasing ventilation, wearing masks, and avoiding large group activities.

Will my student have to make a choice to be tested?
The testing that we are a member of is optional for each student and we are happy to work with you when discussing learning. Testing testing tests to identify and control the spread of the virus.

All we need from you is a signed permission form for your student

QUESTIONS? EMAIL US AT
CIC@WELLESLEYMA.SCHOOLSDISTRICT.EDU

SCAN ME

Toolkit Template: Slide Deck for Introducing COVID-19 Testing To Your School Community

Click the link to download & customize

[DOWNLOAD](#)

INTRODUCING COVID-19 TESTING IN SCHOOL

Consent & Communications

COVID-19 Testing in K-12: Wellesley, MA Public Schools

In Oct. 2020, Wellesley Public Schools began weekly viral testing for all staff and for all middle and high school students. In the first 10 weeks of testing, the SARS program performed 18,000 tests and identified 18 positive cases through the program, including one cluster of in-school transmission. Spread was contained through a 2-week targeted school closure. Baseline testing reassured parents (13% prior to 87% post baseline testing) and staff (12% prior to 82% post baseline testing) of the safety of in-person learning. 87% of staff reported that they are more comfortable with in-person learning due to the weekly testing of staff and students. Here's how Wellesley does it.

Testing Partners

- COMMUNITY**
 - SCHOOL & STAFF**
Full buy-in from school committee, superintendent, teachers union, and nursing staff.
 - FAMILIES & STUDENTS**
Used wellness communications to create buy-in: 90% of students participated in baseline testing, 80% in weekly testing.
- LAB & DATA MANAGEMENT**
- LAB: MIRIMUS**
A pooled Saliva RT-PCR Test with the option to ID positive individuals without additional sample collection. Samples are tested in pools of 24. In the event of a positive result, the pool is retested into pairs, and positive pairs are then individually tested.
- DATA MANAGEMENT: IN HOUSE**
Students manually register test kits using Google Form developed by the Technology Department, Superintendent and Director of Nursing access data as needed.
- LAB & DATA MANAGEMENT COST**
 - Pooled test kit price: \$15/individual tested
 - Positive pool, reflex testing: \$800 for a pool of 24
 - Shipping: Approx. \$8 for a pool of 24
 - Data management: \$0
- SAMPLE COLLECTION OPERATIONS**
At home sample collection minimizes collection operations. Underutilized staff and parent volunteers assemble test kits.
- FUNDING**
Initial pilot funded by local education foundation with support from Mobilizing Foundation.

Weekly Testing Logistics

- Thursday/Friday**
PICKUP TEST
Students and staff pick up testing kits at school.
- Weekend**
REGISTER TEST
Individuals register their kit at home via Google Form by entering a bar code number.
- Monday/Tuesday**
COLLECT & DROP OFF SALIVA SAMPLE
Students and staff collect their saliva samples at home in the morning. Saliva is collected using a saliva straw, collection tube, alcohol wipe, and fume bag. Samples are dropped off to designated locations (eg. receptacles outside the Nurse's Office). Samples are shipped overnight using FedEx.
- Tuesday/Wednesday**
RESULTS
Within 24-48 hours from arrival of samples at lab, results are returned to the Director of Nursing who works with families to understand positive results and contact trace in close collaboration with the local Board of Health.

Regular testing is just one piece of the COVID-19 safety puzzle

- Mandatory masks, except lunch (outdoors when possible)
- Frequent hand sanitizing
- 6' R distancing
- Reduced density, hybrid schedule: Cohort A: Monday & Thursday, Cohort B: Tuesday & Friday
- Daily symptom survey for staff and high school students. Parents of K-8 students also required to monitor symptoms
- Ventilation improvements
- Contact tracing
- Baseline testing offered to all staff and students upon reopening

Based on project led by Wellesley Public Schools. Prepared by COVID-19 Response Advisors. For more information, visit www.wellesley.edu/covid-19.

Case Studies

Make a testing plan

Step 1: Staffing

CIC Health will provide a Program Coordinator and any additional staffing you request. Some schools choose to staff their testing program in-house with existing staff, others rely entirely on CIC's team, and many use a combination.

[Resource Guide: Identifying Your Testing Team](#)

Step 2: Testing Schedule

Your testing schedule should work for your school - not the other way around - to keep disruptions to a minimum. Remember: anyone can be trained to observe or collect specimens.

[Weekly Testing Schedule](#)

Getting Started

- Choose your tests**
Choose from Routine Covid Safety Checks, Test & Stay, and Symptomatic Testing for pick up
- Make a testing plan**
Work 1:1 with the CIC Health team to design a testing plan for your school
- Communicate plan & prep for launch**
Share the news with students, families and staff. Prepare your sign team for launch

Getting Started Guides



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Next steps

Next steps

- **Complete the Authorized School Application and Statement of Assurances**
 - <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6473918/SY22-Authorized-School-Application-COVID-19-Testing-Program>
- If needed, **request eMed at home tests or BinaxNOW through the forms provided by CIC Health.**
 - The BinaxNOW order form was **provided in the welcome email** you received from CIC Health.
 - The eMed form will be **circulated by CIC Health in an email this afternoon.**
 - CIC will circulate both forms periodically to ensure that districts have access to them.

