



Norwell Public Schools

Office of Student Services



Norwell Public Schools • 322 Main Street • Norwell, MA 02061 • v:781.659.8800 • f:781.659.8805 • norwellschools.org

January 24, 2022

Dear Families,

On Monday, January 18, DESE and the Department of Public Health announced a new COVID-19 testing option for K-12 schools. Our district is updating our COVID-19 Testing Program, and these new protocols will be phased in beginning on January 24, 2022. We are opting into an at-home testing program that will increase testing of our participating students and staff, regardless of vaccination status. For more information about this update to the statewide testing program, please read the [New COVID-19 Testing Program Option for K-12 Schools memorandum](#). The at-home testing option will begin the week of January 24, 2022, for staff and the week of January 31, 2022 for students. In addition to this new at-home antigen test option, we will continue with routine pooled testing and symptomatic testing during the week. As part of this shift in the program, we are discontinuing Test and Stay and contact tracing for in-school close contacts as of January 31, 2022 for all students and staff.

The opportunity to provide drive through symptomatic testing at the Sparrell Building every school day between 7:15 a.m. and 8:45 a.m, will also allow us to end the COVID PASS attestation process. Please continue to monitor your child's health and isolate and test if symptoms of illness develop. Please keep your children home from school if they are experiencing symptoms and or take advantage of the drive through testing.

This means that, as of January 31st, if your child is a potential contact in school, they may continue to come to school and do not have to be quarantined. This new at-home testing opportunity is voluntary and only those who opt-in to this program will receive tests. This program will be in place until April 22, 2022 when it will be evaluated by DESE.

Please know we will closely monitor the positivity rate and that specific circumstances may require contact tracing, and this will be addressed only if necessary in collaboration with the Norwell Board of Health.

Please read the information below to learn more about the protocols, and how to register to receive a weekly at-home test.

Norwell Public Schools COVID Safety Testing Options:

1. At-Home Rapid Antigen Testing Weekly on Sunday
2. Routine Safety Checks (Pooled Testing) every week. [HERE](#) is the link to register if you have not done so already
3. Symptomatic Testing. Individuals experiencing symptoms should drive through the Sparrell School testing center to be tested. This option is available each day Monday- Friday from 7:15 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. for students.

Free Home Rapid Test Kits

To opt-in and receive your free at-home rapid test kits, please complete our [Opt-In Form](#). There is no additional consent necessary for the at-home tests.

Please let me know if you have questions about this program. Feel free to contact the COVID-19 school hotline 781-635-2219 at any time and/or email covid.19@norwellschools.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Suzan Theodorou". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Suzan Theodorou