



Matthew Keegan  
Superintendent, Norwell Public Schools  
matthew.keegan@norwellschools.org



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

September 10, 2021

Dear Families and Staff,

We have enjoyed welcoming our students and staff back to school this week. For your information, positive COVID-19 cases will be communicated differently this year than last year. A letter will be sent on Friday summarizing the positive cases for the week. There are other resources below that can provide information on a regular basis regarding COVID-19 cases. Families will be contacted by school nurses, administrators or the Norwell Board of Health Agent Ben Margro or one of the public health nurses regarding positive cases and close contact situations.

Prior to the start of school, we were notified that there were 3 positive cases at Cole, 3 positive cases at Vinal, 1 positive case at the Middle School and 1 positive case at the High School. All of these cases were in quarantine prior to the start of school on Wednesday, September 8. There has been 1 positive case at the High School identified after school began. Close contacts are being notified.

The quarantine protocols regarding COVID-19 are posted on the school website under [COVID-19 Resources](#).

The school nurses will confirm when it is appropriate to return to school. We are working hard to understand the impact of the virus on our school community, and this information is a critical piece.

The Norwell Board of Health is aware of the positive cases. As a reminder, if a close contact is identified, parents of students who were in close contact with the community member will be notified privately by school nurses, the Board of Health, or the State Community Tracing Collaborative. We are collaborating with our local board of health to complete contact tracing. Additionally, we are asking those parents whose students are tested for COVID-19 to please report the results to the school nurse.

We are still committed to the state COVID-19 testing program. There is currently a delay at the state level. We have not received the requested supplies. We have received many questions about the routine safety testing. Please see the links on the school website under COVID-19 Resources. Families are asked to consent to all three forms of testing: routine safety testing, symptomatic testing, and test and stay testing. We will inform all families of any testing that is scheduled to take place and allow the opportunity to opt-out if a family changes its mind. If you have not signed up for our school routine COVID-19 safety check program, sign up here: <https://www.cic-health.com/consent/ma>.

## Additional Resources

Norwell COVID-19 Dashboard on NPS website:

- There are four pages. The pages can be advanced by clicking on the arrows in the bottom left corner
- The first page provides total town and school cases
- The second pages provides Town cases per day for the last 30 days
- The third page provides NPS cases per day last 30 days
- The fourth page provides quarantine counts by school for the last 30 days. This information includes students and staff quarantining due to positive cases and close contacts who need to quarantine.

The Mass.Gov website has a [COVID-19 Interactive Dashboard](#):

On Thursday nights the City and Town Data is updated. On 9/9/21 the Norwell data was updated for the two week period from 8/22/21 - 9/4/21.

- 14-day Average Daily Incident rate = 17.1
- 14-day Percent Positivity = 3.1%
- Case Counts (past 2 weeks) = 28

DESE Positive Case Reporting:

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) will begin collecting data on the number of COVID-19 positive cases by district for students and staff on Monday, September 13. Information will be submitted every Wednesday by 5:00 p.m. to DESE for their reporting purposes.

For more information on COVID-19 symptoms and testing, visit:

[https://www.mass.gov/info-details/about-covid-19-testing#where-can-get-a-test?.](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/about-covid-19-testing#where-can-get-a-test?)

You can also find a map of testing sites at:

[https://www.mass.gov/info-details/find-a-covid-19-test.](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/find-a-covid-19-test)

We are committed to continuous communication with and support of our families. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact your school principal, nurse, or Board of Health Agent Ben Margro at 781-659-8016 or [bmargro@townofnorwell.net](mailto:bmargro@townofnorwell.net).

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Matthew A. Keegan  
Superintendent of Schools