



November 19, 2021

Dear Families and Staff,

Since last Friday, there have been eleven COVID-19 positive cases: 4 cases at the Vinal School, 5 cases at the Cole School, and 2 cases at the Middle School. Families are 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.

The quarantine and safety testing protocols for 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. If you have a close contact concern that occurs over the weekend, please keep your child at home until you have spoken to the school nurse regarding the appropriate protocol.

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.

Our *Test and Stay* program is up and running which has enabled us to allow 72 students to remain in school instead of quarantining at home. As a reminder, *Test and Stay* is only available to students who have been identified as a close contact due to an in-school exposure. We continue to encourage all families to complete consent for our testing programs using the CIC testing portal which can be found [HERE](#). Students may not participate in these testing programs without parental consent.

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 11/18/21 the Norwell data was updated for the two week period from 10/31/21 - 11/13/21.

- 14-day Average Daily Incident rate = 22
- 14-day Percent Positivity = 3.41%
- Case Counts (past 2 weeks) = 33

DESE Positive Case Reporting:

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) began collecting data on the number of COVID-19 positive cases by district for students and staff on Monday, September 13. Reports are released on Thursdays. Here is a [link](#) to their data page.

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?-.>

You can also find a map of testing sites at:

<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.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Matthew A. Keegan
Superintendent of Schools