



MIDDLEBOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

30 Forest Street Middleborough, MA 02346
Telephone: (508) 946-2000 Fax: (508) 946-2004



October 4, 2021

Dear Middleborough Public School Community,

As a part of Middleborough Public Schools (MPS) continual efforts supporting healthy schools and our commitment to safe, in-person learning, we are pleased to share information on MPS participation in offering the new Massachusetts state-sponsored Covid-19 “Test and Stay” program. We plan to begin to offer this program on October 5, 2021.

The main goal of this program is to decrease the spread of Covid-19 and support students’ in-person learning by offering in-school COVID-19 testing for those individuals identified as a close contact exposure to a Covid-19 positive case in school.

Features of the program include:

- Offering parents/caregivers and adult students a convenient option to participate in this in-school Covid-19 testing program or choose to opt-out.
- The “Test and Stay” program includes testing only those individuals identified through close-contact tracing exposures that occurred in-school.
- Parents/caregivers would be notified of any close contact exposure before any testing would take place.
- The nurses will be using a rapid antigen test that is administered daily for at least five days after an identified in-school exposure.
- The actual test itself is a gentle nasal swab administered by our dedicated nursing staff in the student-familiar school setting.
- Individual test results are sent directly to parents/caregivers via email. This testing in-school program is provided by the state at no cost.
- Choosing to participate in this “Test and Stay” program removes the required need to quarantine at home after an **in-school** close contact exposure.
- Participating students will remain in school unless they test positive for Covid-19 or develop symptoms.

We ask all parents/caregivers of MPS students to please select this link to grant permission to either opt in, or, if you choose not to participate, opt out of the “Test and Stay” program.

<https://www.cic-health.com/consent/ma>

The state of Massachusetts currently offers three types of testing; however, Middleboro Public Schools is only offering the “Test and Stay” option. Middleborough Public School is not offering “pooled testing” or “diagnostic/symptomatic testing” at this time.

Students that are identified as in-school close contact exposure and the family has decided to opt-out (not participate) in “Test and Stay,” will be required to stay out of school and quarantine at home per the current Mass DPH and DESE joint guidance. This includes the ability to be tested by an outside-of-school test site on or after the fifth day after the in-school exposure. Students are able to return on day 8 after exposure with the negative test result from day five or after, as long as they have no symptoms. If the family chooses not to test their student at all, the student may return to school on day 11 after the in-school exposure as long as the student remains symptom free.

Our school nursing and program support staff are here to help with any questions or concerns you may have related to this program. We are excited to announce the next steps in this program. We look forward to having a great school year while supporting in-person learning each school day as safely as possible.

Sincerely,

Brian E. Lynch
MPS Superintendent of Schools

Paula Magnasco
Coordinator of Nursing