



# WARE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Marlene A. DiLeo, Ed.D., Superintendent  
mdileo@ware.k12.ma.us

Jessica Bolduc, Director of Special Education  
jbolduc@ware.k12.ma.us

239 West Street  
P.O. Box 240  
Ware, MA 01082

Phone: 413-967-4271  
Fax: 413-967-9580

---

October 22, 2021

Dear Ware Families,

Happy Friday! It is hard to believe that first quarter grades close next week. At times it feels like time is moving slowly as we make our way through this public health crisis and at the same time, we find ourselves at the end of October with the holidays right around the corner. In addition to the holidays, the cold and flu season will be upon us shortly. If your child/ren are not feeling well, please do not send them to school as COVID-19 may present similar symptoms as a cold or flu. Please reach out to your school nurse who will help in determining if your child needs to stay home.

Since the start of the 2021/22 school year, we have identified 34 positive COVID-19 cases. Out of the 34 positive cases, 11 have come from SMK, 7 from WMS, and 16 from the JS High School. The numbers are updated daily and can be found at <http://www.wareps.org/covid19/dashboard>.

We have been performing COVID testing since the end of September. This testing has allowed us to screen weekly for COVID, test for symptoms, and keep students in school if they are close contacts via the test and stay protocol. If you would like to sign your child up for testing please visit [www.cic-health.com/consent/ma](http://www.cic-health.com/consent/ma). Any questions regarding testing can be answered by your child's school nurse.

The challenges to us this year appear to be more extreme than last. Teachers, paraprofessionals, and staff are doing everything in their controls to have an uninterrupted year that is as closely aligned to the "old normal" as possible. We ask for families to support us in these efforts by being extremely cognitive of your child/ren's health prior to sending them off to school. This, along with our mitigation strategies, will allow us to get through these next three quarters without having to yield to illness.

Thanks to everyone for your continued patience and support as we work our way through this. Together we are better and can achieve the unachievable!!

Stay well,

*Dr. Marlene A. DiLeo*  
Superintendent

*Jennifer Knight*  
School Nurse Leader