



WARE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Ware Families,

Good afternoon! Hope this week's communication finds you and your family well! This week Commissioner Jeff Riley informed districts that the mask requirement has been extended through Monday, February 28, 2022. Please remind your child/ren of the importance of proper mask wearing so that it comes all the way up to the bridge of their nose and way down under their chin. Make sure it is snug around their face without any gaps. With this highly contagious variant, Omicron, you may want to consider sending your child/ren to school with a mask that has multiple layers of protection.

If you have been monitoring the District Dashboard (<http://www.wareps.org/covid19/dashboard>) you noticed the rise in COVID cases throughout campus. There were 59 positive cases this week. Along with the increase in cases comes an increase in the close contacts we have identified throughout all buildings.

Due to the overwhelming number of close contacts, starting next week, the District will no longer be able to contact parents on a case-by-case basis to test and stay. Any student who does not have a permission slip on file at www.cic-health.com/consent/ma will be sent home to quarantine, needing a negative PCR test in order to return to school on day six. To assure your child/ren can take part in the Test and Stay Program you MUST submit a permission slip prior to your child becoming a close contact. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Last week our safety check testing (pooled testing) results came back late on Friday, which noted 9 positive cases. With a snow day last Friday district administrators & nurses spent the day contacting these individuals, along with contact tracing that comes along with any positive cases found. Thanks to Lead Nurse Jennifer Knight and Nurse Jaime Miner who spent Saturday morning providing rapid testing to all those individuals who were part of those positive pools. It is through this due diligence of these protocols from our nursing staff that has been extremely helpful in our goal of having an uninterrupted year! Thanks to our nurses, teachers, paraprofessionals, food service, custodians, administration, and bus drivers for proving when times get tough the tough get going!! They prove it every day all day and I am so grateful for each and every one of them.

Please take a moment to review the updated protocols below. These protocols explain the procedures for when an individual tests positive for COVID, is an asymptomatic close contact or develops symptoms while in school.

Knowing that vaccinations and boosters provide individuals with a layer of protection against this virus the District will be offering another vaccine clinic on Friday, February 4 from 3:00-6:00 at SMK. Please watch this space, along with our District website and Facebook page, for details on how to register.

Thank you for your continued support of Ware Public Schools and assisting us in our efforts to combat this virus and keep children in school!

Stay well,

Dr. Marlene A. DiLeo

Superintendent

Jennifer Knight

School Nurse Leader

Protocol A: Individual Tests Positive for COVID-19

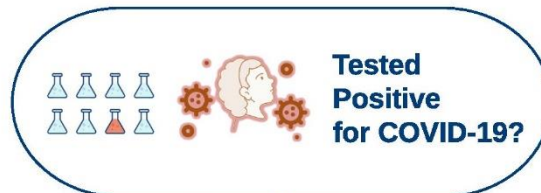
PATHWAY LEGEND



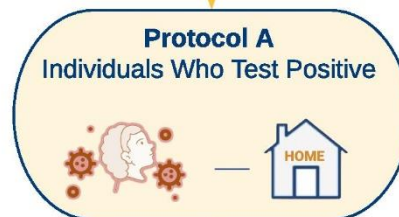
stay in school



go home



GO HOME



Return to school on day 6 and once:

1. Symptoms improve
2. Fever-free without fever-reducing medicine for 24 hours

Please Note:

- Following the 5-day isolation period, individuals must mask for 5 additional days when around others.
- The 5-day period starts with onset of symptoms or after positive PCR or antigen test if individual is asymptomatic.
 - If individual tests positive as part of a pooled test, the 5-day period begins the day the pooled test returned a positive result.
- Individuals who do not meet these criteria after 5 days should receive clearance from either public health authority contract tracers (the local board of health of Community Tracing Collaborative) or school health professionals before returning to school.
- Return to school should be based on time and symptoms resolution. It is not recommended that individuals take another COVID test prior to return.

Protocol B: Asymptomatic Close Contacts

PATHWAY LEGEND

 stay in school

 go home

Close Contact with COVID-19 Infection and You Are Asymptomatic?

- Exempt from Testing and Quarantine:*
- **Asymptomatic, fully vaccinated**
 - **Classroom close contacts** provided both individuals were masked and at least 3 feet apart
 - **Bus close contacts** provided individuals were masked and bus windows were open
 - **Had COVID within the past 90 days**

Are you exempt from testing and quarantine?

YES

Remain in School

NO

Does your school offer Test and Stay and you are opting in?

YES

NO

Report ALL BinaxNOW results

Protocol B-1: Test and Stay
recommended option

Protocol B-2 Traditional Protocol

Duration is 5 days. Testing is on school days + any extracurricular weekend days

Remain in school so long as you are asymptomatic and:

- Wear a mask in school at all times, other than when eating or drinking (keep 3' distance when unmasked to the extent feasible).
- Test negative daily on school days and any weekend days for extracurricular activities (weekend tests = eMed Take Home Test)
- Quarantine at home on non-school/extracurricular days
- Monitor symptoms through day 10

Return to school on day 6 provided you:

1. Remain asymptomatic
2. Monitor symptoms through day 10
3. Self-isolate if symptoms develop
4. Adhere to strict mask use for an additional 5 days

Please Note:

- For all those exposed, best practice would also include an antigen or PCR test for COVID-19 at day 5 after exposure.

Protocol C: Symptomatic Individuals at School

PATHWAY LEGEND

