



WARE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Ware Families,

Good afternoon! On January 18, 2022 Commissioner Jeff Riley announced a new COVID testing option for schools which includes a weekly at-home test for participating students and staff. From the information obtained from the state’s Test and Stay program, it’s been determined that asymptomatic close contacts who are repeatedly tested in school test negative over 90% of the time. The state has determined that those individuals who have been identified as close contacts in school are very unlikely to contract or spread COVID. After reviewing the data, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has determined the secondary transmission of the virus is rare.

To assure we are maximizing our efforts in keeping staff and students safe at school, we will be transitioning to this new testing protocol which will focus on identifying symptomatic individuals instead of monitoring the close contact individuals. To achieve this, the state is providing at home rapid antigen tests to any individuals who signs up to take part in this program. This approach will take the burden off our nurses who can now focus on those individuals who test positive for COVID.

	UPDATED K-12 Testing Option (effective January 31)	ORIGINAL K-12 Testing Option (ends January 28)
Symptomatic testing and/or routine Safety Check Testing (Pooled Testing)	Yes <i>Testing takes place on Wednesday</i> Register for Safety Check Testing at https://www.cic-health.com/consent/ma	Yes
Test and Stay	No	Yes
Individualized contact tracing for in-school exposures	Not required	Yes
Weekly at-home antigen testing (students and staff) <i>Testing kits will be sent home bi-weekly on Thursdays for those who opt-in, beginning January 27 for staff and February 3 for students.</i>	Yes <i>Test on Sunday</i> Complete the Opt-In/Out Form at SMK: https://forms.office.com/r/8P7EuQzX15 WMS: https://forms.office.com/r/rzDM3UmAeh WJSHS: https://forms.office.com/r/nswxTGvxRc	No

Opting into this program along with our continued weekly Safety Check Testing (Pooled Testing) will assist us in reaching our goal of having an uninterrupted school year.

Stay well,

Dr. Marlene A. DiLeo
Superintendent

Jennifer Knight
School Nurse Leader