



# WARE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Ware Families,

Happy Friday! On February 9, 2022, Commissioner Jeff Riley announced the DESE mask requirement will be lifted statewide as of February 28, 2022. With the Commissioner's announcement, masking policies will now revert to local control. The Board of Health will be meeting on February 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss their universal masking in schools, daycares, and all children's programs. In addition, on this day the school committee will meet to discuss their face mask policy. For those families who utilize the buses to get to school, per federal order face masks will be required on busses even after DESE's order is lifted.

Our new at-home COVID testing program has rolled out without many issues. Remember, we now have two testing initiatives that students and staff can take part in: Safety Check Testing (Pooled Testing) and/or the At-Home Test Kits. You can take part in both initiatives or in only one, your choice of which one.

### **Safety Check Testing (Pooled Testing)**

To sign up for Safety Check Testing visit <https://www.cic-health.com/consent/ma>. This test is administered in school on Wednesdays.

When signing up for Safety Check Testing, you also have the option to consent for symptomatic testing, which will allow us to administer a rapid test if your child shows any symptoms of the virus while at school.

### **At-Home Test Kits**

*([Click here](#) for a video on how to test)*

If you would like your child to receive a test kit and have not already signed up, click on the link for the appropriate school(s) your child(ren) attends to opt-in.

[SMK](#)

[WMS](#)

[WJSHS](#)

The next distribution for antigen test kits is Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup>.

Our next vaccination clinic will be held on Monday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, from 3:00-6:00 at the SMK Elementary School gymnasium. All vaccinations are available, including pediatric pfizer and flu vaccinations. Registration is recommended and can be made at <https://bit.ly/stanleyvax>. UMass Police Officer Bonnayer and his partner, K9 Parker, will be there to offer members of our community a relaxing environment to interact with them.

To assure you are receiving all call around and email messages, please make sure we have your correct phone number(s) and email address. If for any reason you need to make changes to this information, please contact your child's school to update that information.

Thank you for your continued support as we work toward our goal of an uninterrupted school year.

Stay well,

*Dr. Marlene A. DiLeo*  
Superintendent

*Jennifer Knight*  
School Nurse Leader