

Martha's Vineyard Public Schools

Excellence and Equity For All Children

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September 8, 2021

Greetings Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you back to school! I hope you enjoyed your summer. We will be starting up a new COVID-19 testing program to ensure staff and students can safely return to school and stay in the building. Our testing program will be a little different this year. We will be offering two types of testing: Weekly surveillance testing of a random selection of staff and students and a "Test and Stay" rapid test program for people identified as close contacts of someone who tests positive for COVID 19.

Below is specific information about both programs.

- (1) Weekly Surveillance Testing. Like last year, each week a group of staff and students will be selected to participate in testing. Those identified will be notified via email each Monday and will submit a test on Tuesday at school. Unlike the test last year, this test will be a self-administered nasal swab test. The test takes a couple seconds and is not as invasive as the tests given at the hospital. More information on the logistics at each school will be shared with all families soon. Results of these tests will be returned to the school within 24 hours.
- (2) "Test and Stay" Rapid Test Program. In the past, staff and students who have been identified as a close contact have had to stay home from school to quarantine. The new "test and stay" program is an effort to keep everyone in the building as much as possible! When an unvaccinated individual is identified as a close contact, they will be eligible to participate in this program. We will be utilizing the BinaxNOW Rapid Antigen test in the morning before school for 5 days following their exposure. If your child is a close contact, they will not be able to ride on the school bus during this 5-day period. If the rapid test is negative, they can attend school that day; if their test is positive, they will be sent home.

What do you need to do next?

All staff and students/parents need to complete a new consent form. You can access the consent form at <https://www.cic-health.com/consent/ma>. There are many languages to choose from: click on the button at the top, right-hand corner of the main page to change languages. Once you click "consent now", you will select "Martha's Vineyard" as the district and your child's school. This page will be available for you to access at any time during the testing program. You will not be included in the testing program unless you enroll through this site.

This program is designed to keep our community safe - those in school and our immuno-compromised neighbors at home. Thank you for your participation.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

Molly Houghton
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