

Martha's Vineyard Public Schools

Excellence and Equity For All Children

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SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

January 25, 2022

Dear Staff,

I am writing to let you know, in accordance with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Department of Public Health (DPH), our district is updating our COVID-19 Testing Program, effective February 7. We are opting into an at-home testing program that will increase testing of our participating students and staff, regardless of vaccination status. For more information about this update to the statewide testing program, please [click here](#). The at-home testing option will begin during the week of February 7. In addition to this new at-home antigen test option, we will continue with our surveillance testing program during the week.

As part of this shift in the program, we are discontinuing Test and Stay and contact tracing for in-school close contacts. This means that if you or your child is a potential contact in school, you or they may continue to come to school and do not have to quarantine.

This new at-home testing opportunity is voluntary and only those who opt-in will receive tests. You can opt-in your child or if you're a staff member [here](#). We strongly encourage you to fill out the opt-in form by Friday, January 28. I have also included below an overview of the program for your information. If you have questions, please contact your school's nurse or me.

Sincerely,

Matthew D'Andrea, LP.D.

Overview: At-Home Rapid Testing Program

- **About the Test:** [iHealth](#) is a 15-minute at-home FDA-approved rapid antigen test
- **Opt-In:** To participate, you must opt in by completing the form [here](#) . By opting in, you will agree to review the training materials for test administration, report positive test results to your or your child's school, and administer the tests according to MVPS guidelines.
- **Weekly:** For those who opted in, every two weeks you will receive an iHealth at-home rapid test kit. Each kit contains two individual tests. You will administer one test each week on a predetermined day of the week.
- **Reporting Positive Test Results:** If you test positive on an at-home antigen test, you will inform the school of the positive result. The school will keep the results confidential and will not make individual results public. **In addition, it is strongly recommended that you inform your healthcare professional of the positive result.**
- **Easy, Free, and Flexible:** This test is administered at home (not at school), reducing the burden on school staff and time to administer tests and increasing a family's flexibility to do testing in the home for free.