

# *Martha's Vineyard Public Schools*

*Excellence and Equity For All Children  
Equal Opportunity Employer*

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SUPERINTENDENT

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September 1, 2022

Dear Parent/s and Guardian/s,

Due to the steps that have been taken over the past two years (in-school testing, home testing, the availability of vaccinations, etc.), the COVID-19 situation has changed since March 2020. Below please find the steps we've put in place for the 2022-2023 school year:

We will begin our school year under the similar guidelines from the end of our school year last June as informed by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Schools (DESE), the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Department of Public Health (DPH), and our local boards of health and Island schools physician.

However – some changes have occurred as described in the following:

- We will no longer provide weekly pool testing for our students and staff.
- We will no longer test our student-athletes and club members traveling off-island for events.
- We will, for as long as we can, provide symptomatic testing of students at school and home tests for any family that needs them.
- We will ask that you provide written permission to perform a rapid test at school for your child if appropriate.
- All nurses will continue to record positive cases and track the isolation times for when it is appropriate for students to return to school.
- We will report the number of positive cases (staff and students) each week on the MVYPS Website.
- If a child is symptomatic and tests negative, it is recommended that they repeat testing 48 hours from the initial test.
- Currently, there are many other illnesses in the pediatric population such as RSV, Flu, and Rhinovirus that are causing children to be more symptomatic with a longer recovery than before Covid-19.
- Please see the following link in regards to isolation and exposure guidance and protocols for school:  
<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-isolation-and-exposure-guidance-for-children-and-staff-in-child-care-k-12-out-of-school-time-ost-and-recreational-campprogram-settings>
- We encourage our families and children to wear masks while attending school if they are immune-compromised or have concerns about a family member in their household.
- We will continue to monitor and assess the environment and situation and provide you with timely updates as things change.

I thank you for everything you've done to keep our children in our schools and for helping to mitigate the spread of infection. Your help at home is necessary to ensure that our children have the most positive and rewarding experience in our schools. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Richard Smith, Ed.D.  
Superintendent, 508-693-2007, ext. 15