

CHELMSFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Jay Lang, Ed.D., Superintendent

September 3, 2021

Dear Chelmsford School Community,

It was great to see all the students back in school this week to meet and interact with friends and staff they have not seen in awhile. The first three days with students in the schools went very well. While there are always adjustments to be made to procedures and routines in the buildings, overall, the opening went very smoothly. I truly appreciate the effort of families and staff to make the opening of school go so well. It typically takes a few weeks to work out some of the operational logistics with such matters as drop-off/pick, bussing, etc. Now that schools have reopened, we all must adjust to traffic patterns in town as we drive to and from school and bus drivers get up-to-speed on their new routes. However, this is to be expected and I believe we're off to a great start.

I would like to focus this week's communication on two specific topics, as it is very important families review and communicate with CPS nursing staff about 1) the COVID-19 vaccination status of their child(ren) and 2) whether you want your child to participate in the Test and Stay protocol, if not vaccinated and identified as a close contact of a COVID positive individual this year. Please take a few minutes, review the information below, and respond to inform the CPS nursing staff of your decision.

COVID-19 Vaccination Status

One of the significant changes this year, over last, is that asymptomatic vaccinated individuals are not considered close contacts to a confirmed COVID positive individual and do not need to test or quarantine to remain in school. Parents are asked to provide documentation of vaccine status for their child so we may appropriately identify "close contacts" exempt from COVID-19 testing and quarantine protocols in the event a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 this school year. Vaccination is a key mitigation strategy as we work to provide a healthy and safe learning environment in our school community. **If a parent elects not to share the vaccine status of their child, the child is assumed unvaccinated and must follow COVID-19 test and quarantine protocols for unvaccinated individuals.** Parents may access the COVID-19 vaccination notification status form at the following link to inform CPS nursing staff of their child's vaccination status: <https://forms.gle/7ovjaPWQVijtEwhS8>. You are required to log-in to a Google account to upload your form. If you do not have a Google account, you may upload the form through your child's school issued Google account. Please complete a separate form for each child that attends a Chelmsford Public School.

Test and Stay Protocol

CPS will be offering a Test and Stay protocol for individuals who are identified as "close contacts" due to a COVID-19 positive school exposure. This testing protocol will minimize the amount of time individuals (students and staff) are out of school due to an in-school COVID-19 positive exposure and is a safe alternative to at-home isolation. The Test and Stay protocol requires an individual take a rapid antigen test, BinaxNOW, upon arrival to school each day and receive a negative test result.

CHELMSFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Jay Lang, Ed.D., Superintendent

The duration of the Test and Stay protocol is seven (7) days from the date of exposure, and close contacts may remain in school if they:

- Are asymptomatic;
- Wear masks in school at all times, other than when eating or drinking (when eating or drinking 3 feet of distance from other individuals should be maintained);
- Take a rapid antigen test – BinaxNOW, each school day and receive a negative test result. When the 7 days from date of exposure includes weekends or holidays, individuals should quarantine on weekends/holidays and if they remain asymptomatic, upon return to school be tested immediately. If the individual remains negative, they may stay in school;
- Conduct active monitoring for symptoms through day 14, and self-isolate at home if symptoms develop.

Individuals who elect to participate in the Test and Stay protocol may be eligible to participate in school sports and extracurricular activities. For school events and sports that take place on non-school days, testing will be required on those days to participate. Test and Stay is only applicable to in-school COVID-19 exposure. Exposures outside of school require a traditional quarantine protocol response.

Important Information – Consent to Participate Required

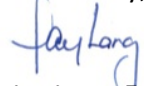
For your child to participate in the Test and Stay protocol if they are identified as a close contact to a COVID-19 positive individual, consent is required to test. Please refer to the consent form for additional information. Our nursing staff is thoroughly trained on how to administer the Abbott BinaxNOW Rapid Antigen Diagnostic Test.

To provide permission for your child to participate in the Test and Stay protocol in our schools, please select the following link to complete the consent form: <https://forms.gle/79Hv4twPifgrrriM57>.

***Please note the consent includes an option for Symptomatic Testing, however, symptomatic testing is not currently available in our schools.** The consent is applicable only for weekly COVID-19 pool testing and/or the Test and Stay protocol.

I hope you enjoy the long weekend and look forward to the students return next Tuesday.

Yours truly,



Jay Lang, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools