



CHELMSFORD
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PARENT FAQ: At-Home Rapid Testing

1. ***Can I sign up for Pool Testing and /or At-Home Rapid Testing if my child has tested positive for Covid?***

Pool testing and/or COVID testing is not recommended within 90 days of testing positive for the COVID-19 virus. Your child can participate in Pool Testing/At-Home Rapid Testing after 90 days from the positive Covid-19 test. It is extremely rare to be re-infected with the virus within 90 days of testing positive. Should symptoms develop within the 90-day period, please consult your healthcare provider for testing recommendations.

2. ***If my child does not participate in Pool Testing, can they still sign up for the At-Home Rapid Testing Program?***

Yes. It is strongly recommended that all students participate in Pool Testing, however it is not required. Students not participating in Pool Testing may opt in for the At-Home Rapid Testing Program.

3. ***If I do NOT sign up my child for home tests, will they fall under different protocols regarding quarantine/mask wearing?***

No. The same protocols for illness pertain to your child if symptomatic whether or not an individual is participating in the At-Home Rapid Testing Program. If an individual has Covid symptoms, testing for COVID-19 is strongly recommended.

4. ***If my child is a close contact from a school exposure, can they participate in 'Test and Stay' or do they need to quarantine at home?***

As of 2/4/22, the school will be discontinuing contact tracing and the Test and Stay Program. If there is a potential school exposure to a positive case in the classroom, your child can continue to come to school if they are feeling well and are not symptomatic.

5. ***Do I need to pick up test kits every 2 weeks or can I skip weeks?***

The At-Home Rapid Testing kits will be distributed at school and sent home every 2 weeks. **One (1) test is to be taken weekly.** The testing program is intended to be utilized

as a mitigation strategy and is a form of surveillance testing. By opting into this program, you are agreeing to administer the test according to the guidelines, which is weekly. If you do not intend to test weekly, please let the school know that you will not be participating in the At-Home Rapid Testing program.

6. *My child is unvaccinated and is an “outside of school” close contact. Does my child have to quarantine at home for 5 days?*

Yes. Unvaccinated close contacts must follow the response protocol for a positive exposure in the home or at an outside of school event. An unvaccinated close contact to a positive case in the home or in the community setting, must quarantine at home for 5 days. They may return on Day 6 if symptom free. Testing is strongly recommended on Day 5 but is not required. Strict mask wearing is required on days 6-10, except when eating, drinking or outside.

A vaccinated close contact to a positive case in the home or in the community, must monitor for symptoms for the full 10 days and it is recommended to test on Day 5, but not required.

7. *If my child is not participating in the weekly pool testing but has signed up for the At-Home Rapid Testing Program, what day should they test?*

The recommended testing day would be testing at home every Sunday.

8. *Will the classroom be notified of a positive home test result?*

No, the classroom will no longer be notified of a positive individual in the classroom. The district will publish the positive cases on the weekly COVID-19 Dashboard which includes the number of positive students and staff at each school. The district will also publish the weekly dashboard Pool Testing results.

9. *Do parents need to report the results of the At-Home Rapid test?*

Yes- a positive At-Home Rapid test needs to be reported to the school nurse. However, a negative result (hooray!) does not need to be reported.

10. *Can my child test earlier in the week if they have symptoms?*

The At-Home Test is primarily intended as a screening tool and is not meant for symptomatic testing. It is advised to call your healthcare provider for testing recommendations. However, if the test is used, a replacement test cannot be provided later in the week.