

CHELMSFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Jay Lang, Ed.D., Superintendent

Additional Information Regarding At-Home Rapid Antigen Tests

February 8, 2022

Dear CPS Parent/Caregiver/Staff:

At Chelmsford Public Schools, keeping your students safe and in school is our top priority. We are writing to let you know, in accordance with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), our district is updating our COVID-19 Testing Program, effective February 4, 2022. 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 rapid antigen testing option will begin during the week of February 7, 2022. In addition to this new at-home rapid antigen test option, we will continue with Pool Testing during the week. As part of this shift in our mitigation strategy, we are discontinuing the Test and Stay initiative and contact tracing for in-school close contacts. This means that if your child is a potential close contact in school, 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 test kits. We strongly encourage you to fill out the form to opt-in. If you have questions, please contact your school's nurse.

[COVID-19 Testing Programs:](#)

1. **At-Home Rapid Antigen Testing** - *Click here if you have not yet signed up:*
<https://forms.gle/P8G7MSB3HaFmHoL68>
2. **Weekly Pooled Testing** - *Click here if you have not yet signed up:*
<https://forms.gle/nyhZaCb4vL2N5vecA>
3. **Weekly Pooled Testing Schedule:**
Monday: Parker, Byam and Community Education
Tuesday: CHS, McCarthy and Harrington
Wednesday: Center and South Row
4. If pool testing on Monday, please use the At-Home Rapid Antigen Test kit on Thursday.
5. If pool testing on Tuesday or Wednesday, please use the At-Home Rapid Antigen Test kit on Friday.
6. If not participating in weekly pool testing, it is recommended to administer the At-Home Rapid Antigen Test kit once per week on Sunday.

Overview: At-Home Rapid Testing Program

- **About the Test:** [iHealth](#) is a 15-minute at-home FDA Emergency Use Authorized antigen test.
- **Opt-In:** To participate, you must opt in by completing the opt in form. By opting in, you will agree to review the training materials for test administration, report positive test

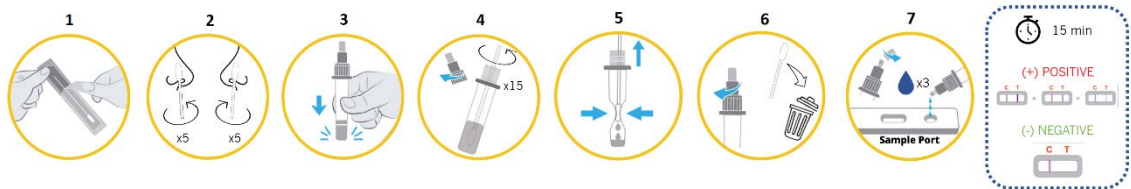
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- results to your student's school, and administer the tests according to Chelmsford Public School guidelines.
- **Weekly:** Every two weeks you will receive an iHealth at-home rapid antigen test kit. Each kit contains two individual tests. Your student will administer one test each week on Thursday or Friday, depending on the day your school offers pooled testing. At-Home Rapid Antigen Tests will be distributed at school every other Friday.
- **Reporting Positive Test Results:** If your student tests positive on an at-home rapid antigen test, please inform the school nurse of the positive result. The school will keep the results confidential and will not make individual test results public. Positive individuals will follow the current isolation guidelines. **It is strongly recommended that you inform your healthcare provider of the positive result.**
- **Reporting Negative Results:** Negative results (hooray!) do not need to be reported.
- **Easy, Free, and Flexible:** This test is administered at home (not at school) and increases a family's flexibility to test at home for free.

How do I administer the test?

- [Click here](#) for a full "how to" written guide in various languages
- [Click here](#) for a video of an individual self-testing



Additional Information:

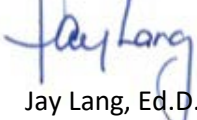
- We strongly encourage students and staff to participate in pooled testing, however an individual **is not required** to participate in pooled testing to opt in to the At-Home Rapid Antigen Testing program.
- If an individual has tested positive within the past 90 days, covid testing is not recommended during this period. **Please opt in after the 90-day period is complete for the At-Home Rapid Antigen Testing program.**
- The At-Home Rapid Antigen Test kits will be distributed on February 7th to those who signed up by January 31st. However, an individual may opt in to the At-Home Rapid Antigen Testing program at any time during the year. In this case, the testing kit will be available for the following weeks distribution schedule.
- If an individual is a close contact **outside of the school setting** (in the home or community), individuals must continue to follow the response protocol appropriate for the scenario. Unvaccinated close contacts to a positive case in the home or community setting will continue to follow the 5-day quarantine and testing guidelines per the Department of Health and the Chelmsford Board of Health.
- **Pooled testing and the At-Home Rapid Antigen Testing program are mitigation strategies intended for individuals who are asymptomatic. If an individual is**

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- **experiencing symptoms, it is advised they contact their healthcare provider for testing recommendations** (the At-Home Rapid Antigen Test is not intended for symptomatic testing).

Yours truly,



Jay Lang, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

LINK: [Student and Staff Opt-In/Register for At-Home Rapid Antigen Testing Program](#)

LINK: [Student Consent/Register for Weekly COVID-19 Pool Testing Program](#)

LINK: [Staff Consent/Register for Weekly COVID-19 Pool Testing Program](#)