

Monday, January 24, 2022

Dear Parents,

At St. Monica School, keeping your students safe and in school is our top priority. We are writing to let you know, in accordance with the new guidelines from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Department of Public Health (DPH), St. Monica School is updating its COVID-19 Testing Program, effective January 28, 2022.

We are transitioning 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 the week of January 31st. In addition to this new at-home antigen test option, we will continue with symptomatic testing in the health office as needed during school days.

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 your child is a potential 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 tests. We strongly encourage you to fill out the form by Friday, January 28th to opt-in. The form is attached to this email.***

Students that opt-in will be able to pick up test kits from the school nurse every two weeks on Tuesday. If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Carol Sanborn at 978-686-1801

COVID-19 Testing Programs at St. Monica School:

- **At-Home Rapid Antigen Testing** –On Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning students should test. For the safety of our community, we encourage you to utilize these free tests weekly.
- **Symptomatic Testing** - Students that report to the nurse's office with symptoms will be tested for COVID using a rapid antigen test if they filled out the consent form here <https://www.cic-health.com/consent/ma>

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 attached. By opting in, you will agree to review the training materials for test administration, report positive test results to the school, and administer the tests according to St. Monica School guidelines.
- Weekly: Every two weeks you will receive an iHealth at-home rapid test kit from the school. Each kit contains two individual tests. You will administer to your student one test each week prior to coming to school on Wednesday.
- Reporting Positive Test Results: If your student tests positive on an at-home antigen test, you will inform the school of the positive result by emailing the school nurse at nurse@methuencatholic.org.

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.

- 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

How do I submit results?

- Submit Results: You must submit positive test results to your student's school nurse via email at nurse@methuencatholic.org.

- Confidentiality: Individual results will remain confidential, and they will never be made public. At home test results are not reported to the Department of Public Health

We recognize following these new guidelines of not doing contact tracing is a big change for all of us. We are counting on our families to self-monitor and do the right thing if your child is sick. We are hopeful that this transition is a positive sign of moving in the right direction and leading us out of this pandemic.

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Mrs. Donna Henderson
Principal