

Chelsea Public Schools

Frequently Asked Questions for the COVID-19 Testing Program, September, 2021

1. What Covid-19 testing options are provided by Chelsea Public Schools?

Chelsea Public Schools will be providing optional, weekly Covid-19 testing for all students and staff. The test is a non-invasive saliva test that involves the providing saliva into a tube. We will also be utilizing BinaxNow rapid antigen tests for symptomatic individuals as well as asymptomatic close contacts. This will allow asymptomatic close contacts to “Test and Stay” by receiving a negative result from the rapid antigen test. These individuals will be able to remain on campus as long as they test each school day during a 7-day period after exposure. Only individuals who complete the consent process may participate in our testing services. Please see our parent letter at the links below:

English:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1sSy2px0_XHKC6VCjJ1KeAjJuOKFXTcvo/edit?usp=sharing&oid=100044055679658101687&rtpof=true&sd=true

Spanish:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vSZ7LI6FFxH2jt19PkpGu0PbGrB_yFIe/edit?usp=sharing&oid=100044055679658101687&rtpof=true&sd=true

2. How do I sign up for the testing services?

In order to participate in our testing services, one must complete the consent form found [here](#) or at the link below. To access other languages other than English, click the option at the top right of the page. Click “Consent Now” when you are ready to complete the form. Once the consent form is completed, you won’t need to do it again. If you would like to learn more, click “Learn More.” If you are unable to access the site, please reach out to your principal or school nurse who can support you in providing consent.

<https://www.cic-health.com/consent/ma?district=null>

3. How will the weekly testing work?

Typically, schools will send home testing kits on Mondays to be collected Tuesday mornings. On weeks where we have no school on Monday, schools will send home testing kits on Tuesdays to be collected Wednesday mornings. Students and staff simply use the provided kits to provide a saliva sample. Place the funnel in the tube, spit into the tube providing enough saliva to reach the line on the tube. Bubbles don’t count. Then, remove the funnel, and screw on the cap. You then “register the sample” by aiming your smart phone camera at the barcode on the tube. A link will then pop up. Click that link and answer a few short questions about the person providing the sample. This process needs to be completed for each sample that is submitted so that the sample can be linked with the completed consent form. Students and staff should also write the date of birth

and initials on the label provided on the tube. Students and staff should bring their sample to school the following day and drop it off at the provided location at your school.

4. When will I receive results?

The lab typically reports results within 24 hours. No news is good news. If your result is negative, you will not receive results. If your result is positive, the school will contact you. Contact tracing protocols will be followed in the event of a positive case. Any close contacts will also be notified. Protocols for responding to Covid-19 scenarios can be found at the link below. Asymptomatic close contacts may participate in the “Test and Stay” program by taking a rapid antigen nasal swab test that will produce results in 15 minutes as long as there is a completed consent on file.

<https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/protocols/>

5. How are the testing services being funded?

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is fully funding the testing services for the 2021-2022 school year.

6. Is participation mandatory?

No. Participation is optional, but highly recommended. However, any unvaccinated athletes are required to participate in the testing program.

7. What happens if I forget my sample?

Any student or staff that forgets to bring in their sample may get a kit from the health office the morning of sample collection and provide the sample at school.

8. I completed consent last year. Do I still need to complete the consent form in order to participate this year?

Yes. We are working with a different vendor this year. Thus, all participants must provide consent for the 2021-2022 school year.

9. Where are the samples for routine COVID pooled testing processed?

The samples are processed at either the Broad Institute or Veritas Genetics.

10. What if I provide consent and change my mind?

If one changes their mind after they provide consent, please reach out to your school nurse who will remove the consent form our system.