



Mashpee Public Schools

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VOLUNTARY COVID-19 POOL TESTING PROGRAM FOR ASYMPTOMATIC STUDENTS

CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE

February 26, 2021

Dear MPS Parents/Guardians/Caregivers,

Thank you for your continued partnership during this unprecedented school year. As an additional mitigation strategy to help us prevent the spread of COVID-19, we are working closely with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) to plan and implement a **free and voluntary COVID-19 pooled testing program for Mashpee asymptomatic students and staff members.**

The purpose of this letter is to inform our MPS families about this program and also to provide parents/guardians with access to the consent form required if you choose to have your child participate in the program. On Wednesday night, we hosted a Q/A Zoom meeting on this topic. [The recorded meeting is linked here](#) as are the [slides](#) that were part of the informational presentation. We encourage you to view these helpful resources. **Your child will only participate in this program if you have provided your consent. This is an “OPT-IN” program only. If you do not want your child to participate, then you do nothing.**

Pooled testing involves mixing several individual test samples together into one “pool” and then testing the pooled sample for COVID-19 using a PCR test. This approach increases the number of individuals who can be tested at one time and allows us to regularly test our school community for COVID-19.

The pooled tests will be performed weekly (probably on Mondays-**beginning on March 22, 2021**) with a shallow nasal swab for all participating students and staff members. We anticipate receiving the pool test results within 24-48 hours. If the result of the pool is negative, then all individuals in that pool are presumed to not have COVID-19. If the result of the pool test is positive, then all individuals in the pool must be retested individually. Because pooled testing does not give individual results, you will only be notified if your child requires follow-up testing because he/she is part of a pool that tests positive. Our district will be using the Abbott BinaxNOW Rapid Antigen Diagnostic Tests for follow-up testing, so that students or staff in a positive pool can be tested as soon as possible in school and receive individual results in 15- 30 minutes.

Our pool testing staff has been thoroughly trained on how to administer the pool testing, as well as the Abbott BinaxNOW Rapid Antigen Diagnostic Tests, if they are needed for follow-up testing. Stacey Schakel, our District COVID-19 Health Coordinator will call you if your child is part of a positive pool and requires follow-up testing. Stacey will also notify you of your child’s follow-up test results and will provide you with

Mashpee--A Connected Community

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guidance and next steps. We will engage in our regular contact tracing protocol for each individual who tests positive. Only individuals who test positive will need to isolate. Those who are identified as close contacts through our contact tracing will need to follow the 14-day quarantine guidelines. These quarantine and isolation dates are based on the initial pool testing date.

We will report all follow-up test results to DPH and will also provide positive follow-up test results (without names or other identifying information) to DESE's Rapid Response Help Unit.

To have your child participate in the Mashpee Public Schools' COVID-19 Pooled Testing Program, please complete the electronic consent form linked below which includes consent to transmit your information via the pooled testing technology platform, consent for any necessary follow-up tests, and consent to share the test result information with the Department of Public Health and Concentric by Ginkgo (a third party non-profit organization contracted to compile consent for testing and to share test results).

- **Linked consent form:** <https://testcenter.concentricbyginkgo.com/minor-consent>
- Access code that you will need to provide on the second screen: **microbe-mashpee**
- If you are providing consent for more than one child, please complete this process for each child.
- For additional instructions to guide you through the consent process visit: [**Concentric Support Center**](#)
- [**Pool Testing FAQ**](#)

We remain extremely grateful to our committed staff and families who continue to show great flexibility and resilience as we navigate through this school year. It takes all of us working together to contain the spread of this virus. The Mashpee Public Schools remain hopeful, that by adding this additional mitigation strategy and layer of data collection, we will be able to reduce worry and continue to provide the best and safest learning opportunities possible for our students during this pandemic.

If you have questions regarding the COVID-19 Pooled Testing Program or if you would prefer to complete a paper permission form, please reach out to our MPS COVID-19 Health Coordinator Stacey Schakel at sschakel@mpspk12.org or by calling 781-775-7605. Thank you,

With Gratitude,

Patricia DeBoer

Patty DeBoer
Superintendent

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POOLED TESTING

SIGN UP NOW- OPEN ENROLLMENT

WHY

To identifying asymptomatic cases before they spread COVID -19. This will help keep more students learning in person.

REDUCING COVID-19 CASES



SWABBING



HOW

Those with signed consent forms will be tested once per week. Students in grades 2 - 12 and staff will gently swab their nostrils. Younger students will be swabbed by our nurses.

WHAT

Within 24 -48 hours pooled samples are analyzed. If the pool tests negative, no further action is necessary. If positive, a rapid test will be performed on each individual in the pool.



MORE STUDENTS IN SCHOOL



IMPACT

Asymptomatic cases are identified early and they can be quarantined/isolated sooner, thus slowing the spread of COVID by 50%.

HELP PROTECT YOURSELF, YOUR FAMILY, AND OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY!

TO PARTICIPATE CONTACT STACEY SCHAKEL
SSCHAKEL@MPSPK12.ORG OR CALL 781-775-7605



MASHPEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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