

Dear Parent/Guardian:

This letter is to inform you about recent changes in recommendations for rapid antigen COVID-19 test use. This update includes at-home/over-the-counter (OTC) COVID-19 tests. These recommendations regarding serial testing are based on a recent study and were established to increase the chances of accurate results. Although the federal Public Health Emergency is due to expire on May 11, 2023, the use of at-home/over-the-counter tests will remain a critical tool in mitigating the spread of COVID-19 in school communities and beyond.

**What has changed?** On November 1, 2022, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) revised the emergency use authorization COVID-19 antigen tests. Serial (repeat) testing is recommended for at-home/OTC COVID-19 rapid antigen test use for those who have COVID-19 symptoms (symptomatic) and those who have known or suspected exposure to COVID-19 but do not have symptoms (asymptomatic). Available data show that serial (repeat) testing after a negative test increases the chance of an accurate result for those with and without symptoms.

**How does this affect our school community?** When using at-home/OTC COVID-19 tests, the FDA recommends serial (repeat) testing when a first or second test result is negative for those with symptoms (symptomatic) or without symptoms (asymptomatic). Negative test results do not always rule out COVID-19 infection. **This may affect how often families take tests and how they interpret results.** The table below may be used as a guide to determine how often testing should be repeated and how to understand test results.

Thank you for your continued support to keep our schools safe.

At-Home/Over-the-Counter (OTC) COVID-19 Testing Recommendations				
<b>Symptomatic Individuals</b>  <i>(COVID-19 symptoms present)</i>	<b>First Result* Day 1</b>	<b>Second Result Day 3</b>	<b>Third Result Day 5</b>	<b>Final Result/Interpretation</b>
	Positive	N/A	N/A	Positive for COVID-19
	Negative	Positive	N/A	Positive for COVID-19
	Negative	Negative	N/A	Negative for COVID-19
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• *The first test should be taken immediately if you have symptoms of COVID-19.</li> <li>• The second test should be taken if the first test is negative, with at least 48 hours between the first and second test.</li> </ul>			
<b>Asymptomatic Individuals</b>  <i>(Exposed to COVID-19 but no COVID-19 symptoms present)</i>	<b>First Result* Day 1</b>	<b>Second Result Day 3</b>	<b>Third Result Day 5</b>	<b>Final Result/Interpretation</b>
	Positive	N/A	N/A	Positive for COVID-19
	Negative	Positive	N/A	Positive for COVID-19
	Negative	Negative	Positive	Positive for COVID-19
	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative for COVID-19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• *The first test should be taken 5 days after a known exposure (day 0 = last known exposure).</li> <li>• The second test should be taken if the first test is negative, with at least 48 hours between the first and second test.</li> <li>• The third test should be taken if second test is negative, with at least 48 hours between the second and third test.</li> </ul>				

For more information, please visit: <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-covid-19-and-medical-devices/understanding-home-otc-covid-19-antigen-diagnostic-test-results>. The most current at home/OTC test instructions may be accessed at <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-covid-19-and-medical-devices/home-otc-covid-19-diagnostic-tests#list> or on the brand/manufacturer's website. Free community COVID-19 testing locations can be found at <https://testinglocator.cdc.gov/>.