



PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02186

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September 9, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As previously mentioned in our [MPS Opening Guide 2021-2022](#), Milton Public Schools has signed up for the state-funded COVID-19 testing program. By offering testing, we expand the potential for students to remain in school even in some cases when they have been identified as a close contact.

Families must opt in to this program; it is entirely optional. We hope to begin testing once the district has reached 60% participation (parental consent) at each level- Elementary, Middle and High School. **If you are granting consent for your student to participate in the optional testing services, you must complete this [online consent form](#)** and follow these four (4) simple steps:

1. Simply click "Consent Now";
2. Select "Milton" from the drop down as the school district;
3. Choose the school your student attends and;
4. Choose "Sign Consent Form for a Minor," and then complete the form as directed.

Please note that the consent form references "pool testing," now called "routine safety checks." At this time, Milton is not participating in pool testing. As a reminder of how the COVID-19 testing program will work, please see below.

As of 9/9/21 all close contact notifications will be sent home via email. We ask that you check plus portals or speak to your school administrative assistant to confirm we have the correct email(s) on file. As positive cases are reported daily, we ask that you check your email nightly.

Lastly, if your student is fully vaccinated and you have not yet submitted proof of vaccination, please do so as soon as possible to the school nurse. Vaccination status is a key determinant of quarantine and mitigation protocols. According to the guidelines established by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the need to quarantine (or not) is largely dependent on vaccination status, the presence of symptoms, and masking. **If we don't have proof of vaccination on file, we will consider your student to be unvaccinated when making quarantine determinations.** Having records of all vaccinated members of our community will also help us evaluate our mitigation protocols as the year progresses. We appreciate your help in this matter.

25 Gile Road, Milton, Massachusetts 02186

The Milton Public School system does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, gender identity, transgender status, gender transitioning, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, pregnancy/parenting status, marital status, sexual orientation, homelessness, or military status, in any of its programs, activities or operations. These include, but are not limited to, admissions, equal access to programs and activities, hiring and firing of staff, provision of and access to programs and services, as well as selection of volunteers, vendors and employers recruiting at the Milton Public Schools. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our staff, students, volunteers, subcontractors, and vendors. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Dr. Karen L. Spaulding, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum & Human, 617-696-4812

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to our Director of Nursing, Mrs. Kim Coughlin, at 617-696-4470 x5537 or kacoughlin@miltonps.org.

Respectfully yours,

James F. Jette, Superintendent
Kimberly A. Coughlin, Director of Nursing

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COVID-19 TESTING FAST FACTS

- Test and Stay (Close Contact Testing)

This type of testing is for unvaccinated individuals identified as a close contact at Milton Public Schools. Shallow nasal swab samples are collected daily by the school nurse using the BinaxNOW rapid antigen test or another approved diagnostic test. Tests are administered daily from the first day of exposure for at least five (5) days.

- **If the test results are negative**, the individual will be allowed to stay at school and continue learning as per usual.
 - When at school, the individual must wear a mask at all times when indoors, except when eating.
 - The individual is expected to allow three feet of social distancing at lunch while they are unmasked. Specific seating will be designated for this purpose.
- If an individual has symptoms at the time when designated as a close contact, develops symptoms during the testing period, or develops symptoms during the 14 days following initial exposure, they should follow the appropriate quarantine protocol for symptomatic individuals. If an individual tests positive at any time, they should follow the protocol for individuals who test positive for COVID-19.
 - **If the test results are positive**, the individual will be sent home and must follow the appropriate quarantine protocols.
 - Upon completion of the testing duration, the individual conducts active monitoring for symptoms through day 14, and self-isolates at home if symptoms develop.
 - What are the Test and Stay protocols with regard to sports and extra-curricular activities that occur on non-school days? For school-sponsored events and sports that take place on non-school days or vacation weeks, completion of the test and stay protocol is necessary to participate. This means that students in the middle of the protocol or who have not completed testing may be withheld from participation.
 - Symptomatic Testing

This is for both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals who develop COVID-19 symptoms while at school. Symptomatic testing occurs when individuals present symptoms while at school; individuals should not report to school if experiencing symptoms while at home. In symptomatic testing, shallow nasal swab samples are collected by a nurse using the BinaxNOW rapid antigen test or another approved diagnostic test.

- **If the test results are positive**, the individual will be sent home and must follow the appropriate quarantine protocols.
- **If the test results are negative**, the results are considered presumptive. The individual will be sent home and may return to school only when they have a negative PCR test, show improvement in symptoms, and have been fever-free for at least 24 hours.

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