

OLD COLONY

REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 476 North Avenue, Rochester, Massachusetts 02770-1899

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October 4, 2021

Good Morning Old Colony Community,

Our Test and Stay Program is up and running. In an effort to minimize the impact of quarantine time, Old Colony is offering families the opportunity to participate in the statewide testing program for those who may be symptomatic or have been identified as a close contact in a school setting. In order for a minor to participate in the testing program, a parent or guardian must authorize collection and testing for COVID-19 at school. If you would like your student to have access to the "Test and Stay" program, please visit the <u>following link</u> and select "Sign Consent Form For a Minor" or "Sign Consent Form For Yourself" (students 18 and over or staff).

Old Colony will be conducting the following testing in an effort to minimize the need for quarantine (only with consent):

- Testing on symptomatic individuals: for when individuals present symptoms while at school
- Individual testing on close contacts (Test and Stay): for asymptomatic close contacts to be tested daily for at least five (5) days from the first day of exposure, with individuals testing negative being allowed to remain at school

The following close contacts are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols:

- **Asymptomatic, fully vaccinated close contacts:** Individuals who are asymptomatic and fully vaccinated are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols.
- Classroom close contacts: An individual who is exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual in the classroom while both individuals were masked, so long as the individuals were spaced at least 3 feet apart, is exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols. Please note that there will be circumstances where students are sitting closer than 3 feet from each other given the size of some of our classrooms.
- **Bus close contacts:** Individuals on buses must be masked according to federal requirements. As such, individuals who are masked on buses when windows are open are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols.
- Close contacts who have had COVID-19 within the past 90 days: An individual who has been previously diagnosed with COVID-19 and then becomes a close contact of someone with COVID-19 is exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols if:
 - o The exposure occurred within 90 days of the onset of their own illness AND
 - o The exposed individual is recovered and remains without COVID-19 symptoms.

We thank you for your continued collaboration and understanding and look forward to seeing staff and students early next week.

Respectfully,

Aaron L. Polansky Superintendent-Director

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