

OLD COLONY

REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
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January 20, 2022

Dear Old Colony Community,

On January 18, 2022, DESE, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Public Health announced an update to the COVID-19 Testing Program for districts and schools. Specifically, districts and schools participating in symptomatic and/or pooled testing may choose to continue those testing strategies and discontinue contact tracing and Test and Stay. As an additional resource, districts and schools that elect to make this change will be provided with rapid antigen at-home tests for all participating staff and students that may be used on a weekly basis. Old Colony has elected to switch to the updated testing program. Please note that effective immediately, Old Colony will discontinue contact tracing in an effort to focus our attention on symptomatic individuals within our community.

Keeping our students and staff safe and in school is our top priority. We are writing to let you know, in accordance with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Department of Public Health (DPH), our district is updating our COVID-19 Testing Program, effective Friday, January 21, 2022. We are opting into an at-home testing program that will increase testing of our participating students and staff, regardless of vaccination status. For more information about this update to the statewide testing program, please [click here](#).

The at-home testing option will begin upon receipt of testing kits from the state, anticipated the first week of February. In addition to this new at-home antigen test option, adherence to the mask mandate will continue along with access to symptomatic testing for students and staff who have opted-in during the week. As part of this shift in the program, we are discontinuing Test and Stay and contact tracing for in-school close contacts. This means that if your child is a potential contact in school, they may continue to come to school and do not have to quarantine. This new at-home testing opportunity is voluntary and only those who opt-in will receive tests. We strongly encourage you to [fill out the form](#) by next Tuesday, January 25, 2022 to opt-in to this opportunity to receive free test kits for at-home use. If you have questions, please contact our school nurses Lindsay Mota or Deb Levesque via email at lmota@oldcolony.info or dlevesque@oldcolony.info.

COVID-19 Testing Programs in our Schools:

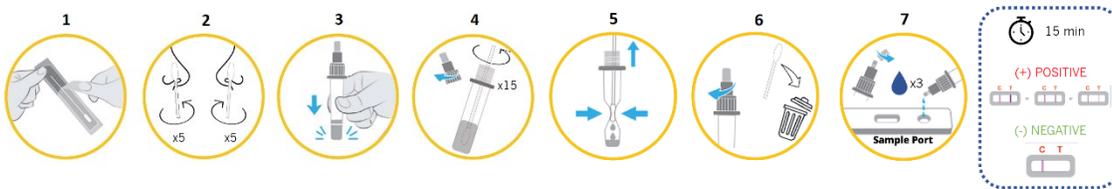
1. **At-Home Rapid Antigen Testing** on Wednesdays ([Click here to complete the opt-in form](#))
2. **Symptomatic Testing** (If you have not yet signed up, [click here](#))

Overview: At-Home Rapid Testing Program

- **About the Test:** [iHealth](#) is a 15-minute at-home FDA-approved rapid antigen test
- **Opt-In:** To participate, you must opt in by completing the [online form](#). By opting in, you will agree to review the training materials for test administration, report positive test results to your student's school, and administer the tests according to Old Colony's guidelines.
- **Weekly:** Every two weeks you will receive an iHealth at-home rapid test kit. Each kit contains two individual tests. Your student will administer one test each week on Wednesday (provided timely delivery of tests from the state).
- **Reporting Positive Test Results:** If your student tests positive on an at-home antigen test, you will inform their school of the positive result using the [Positive Test Result Notification Form](#). The school will keep the results confidential and will not make individual results public. **In addition, it is strongly recommended that you inform your healthcare professional of the positive result.**
- **Easy, Free, and Flexible:** This test is administered at home (not at school), reducing the burden on school staff and time to administer tests and increasing a family's flexibility to do testing in the home for free.

How do I administer the test?

- [Click here](#) for a full "how to" written guide in various languages
- [Click here](#) for a video of an individual self-testing



How do I submit results?

- **Submit Results:** You must submit positive test results to your student's school. [Click here](#) to submit positive test your results.
- **Confidentiality:** Positive test results are shared with your school district for informational purposes only. Individual results will remain confidential, and they will never be made public.

We thank you for your continued support and continue to work diligently in our efforts to maintain a safe in-person learning environment for our Old Colony School Community.

Aaron L. Polansky

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Superintendent-Director