

**APS At-home Testing Program**

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According to DESE/DPH, the MA Test and Stay program has demonstrated negative test results over 90% of the time. In addition, positivity rates in Test and Stay indicated that individuals identified as close contacts in school were very unlikely to contract or spread COVID-19. As a result, DESE/DPH has recommended that school health personnel increase the focus on identifying symptomatic individuals, rather than monitoring in-school close contacts who are unlikely to contract or spread the virus. More information may be found on the DESE website under [COVID-19 Testing Program](#).

Changes to the APS COVID-19 Testing Program, effective 2/1/22:

The following changes are aligned with and required by the DESE’s new testing program and will be implemented in APS effective 2/1/22:

- Continuation of weekly pooled testing in all schools;
- Continuation of symptomatic testing in all schools;
- Implementation of New At-home testing once per week for all consented staff and students ([consent form here](#) and linked below; please complete this ASAP);
- Continuation of surveillance and tracking of cases and monitoring of trends;
- Discontinuation of Test & Stay;
- Discontinuation of *Centralized* Test-to-Return at AHS, replaced by use of at-home school-distributed iHealth tests for Test-to-Return of positive individuals (see [Revised APS Protocol A](#)); and
- Discontinuation of contact tracing (see FAQ).

<b>DO NOW:</b>	<b>DO WHEN APPLICABLE:</b>
<b>PLEASE CLICK HERE</b> <b>To Opt-in to the APS At-Home Testing Program</b>	<b>CLICK HERE</b> <b>To Report a NEW POSITIVE COVID-19 Case</b> <b>OR</b> <b>Test-to-Return Result (Positive or Negative)</b>

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APS At-home Weekly Testing and Test-to-Return:

- Rapid Antigen at-home tests will be distributed to all participating staff and students as follows:
  - Beginning the week of January 24, 2022 - Staff
  - Beginning the week of January 31, 2022 - Students
- Students and staff with consent will receive one iHealth COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test Kit every two weeks. Each kit will contain two tests and more information about how students will receive their tests and when to take them will be shared by school administration.
- New consent will need to be provided by staff and families
- Students and staff will self-administer one test each week on Thursday morning for screening purposes if asymptomatic.
- In addition, at-home test kits may be used for students and staff for the following reasons:
  - The individual is Testing-to-Return after an infection, in which case the individual should use the test on Day 5 or later from the initial positive test; OR
  - The individual is symptomatic at another time during the week or weekend.
- Positive results will be reported to the school nurse via this [Confidential Reporting Form](#)
- It is strongly recommended that parents/guardians and staff inform your healthcare provider of positive results
- Negative results do not need to be reported

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q: How do I administer the iHealth test?**

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

**Q: How do I submit positive test results?**

- You must submit positive test results to the school nurse via this [form](#).

**Q: Are my results confidential?**

- Yes, your test results are confidential and are shared with the district for information purposes only.

**Q: Do I need to submit negative test results?**

- No, for routine testing you do not need to submit negative test results

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- For Test-to-Return, staff do not need to formally submit negative test results to the school nurse and/or administration. Students will continue to be required to submit negative test results to the school nurse in order to return to school between days 6-11 using [this form](#).

**Q: What at-home tests will APS accept for Test-to-Return?**

- APS will only accept iHealth or Binax tests for test-to-return purposes. See [APS Revised Protocol A](#) for further clarifications.

**Q: How will APS Continue to Monitor and Track COVID-19 Trends?**

- APS will continue to engage in COVID-19 surveillance and tracking to monitor COVID-19 cases involving students and staff. For the time being during the Omicron surge, official contact tracing will no longer be performed by school personnel. The focus will be on identifying symptomatic individuals, rather than monitoring in-school close contacts who are unlikely to contract or spread the virus. We will continue to update the District COVID-19 Dashboard on the APS Website.

**Q: What if I tested positive within the past 90 days and become a close contact?**

- 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:
  - The exposure occurred within 90 days of the onset of their own illness AND
  - The exposed individual is recovered and remains without COVID-19 symptoms.
- Any individual who has tested positive within the past 90 days and is beyond Day 10 of their first positive test or symptom onset (whichever was first) is *exempt* from all COVID-19 pooled and antigen testing protocols.