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Carver Public Schools

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The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recently announced an initiative to provide Abbot BinaxNOW COVID-19 rapid diagnostic tests to schools across the country. Massachusetts will receive approximately 2 million tests to distribute over the remainder of the school year as part of this initiative. The Carver Public Schools has applied for and been approved to participate in Phase I of the distribution. The district has received 400 COVID-19 rapid tests.

The Abbot BinaxNOW test is a rapid antigen test. Rapid antigen tests perform best when used on people who are symptomatic. In consultation with school nurses and with parental consent, students with COVID-19 symptoms will be able to be tested in school. A school nurse will administer the test and will have results in 15-20 minutes. Any student who tests positive will be treated as a positive COVID-19 case and follow established guidelines and protocols.

In order to become a testing site the Carver Public Schools had to meet several Massachusetts Department of Education (DESE) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) guidelines. The guidelines include working in conjunction with the school physician to order the tests, maintaining the appropriate level of PPE to administer the tests, training all staff that will be administering the test, and ensuring no student will be tested without parental consent.

Consent to administer the Abbot BinaxNOW COVID-19 test and the reporting of test results to DPH, through a database called Project Beacon, is a requirement of test administration. Parents will be able to provide consent in two ways:

1. **Web-based Self-registration:** You can use the link for your students school below to create a profile in Project Beacon and consent to testing in the Carver Public Schools. Once you enter the site follow the prompts which will take you through the process, which will include entering the appropriate school code listed below. The code is case-sensitive.

Carver Middle High School: <https://app.beacontesting.com/register/with-code?code=UKMQAN>
Carver Middle High School Code: **UKMQAN**

Carver Elementary School: <https://app.beacontesting.com/register/with-code?code=DCTWNR>
Carver Elementary School Code: **DCTWNR**

The school nurse will always contact you prior to testing if you consent in advance using the web-based self-registration.

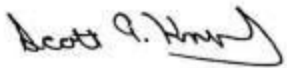
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2. **Paper-based consent:** We will have a paper based consent form available for parents to sign if they have not consented in advance using the above link. If a parent signs a paper consent it is a requirement of the program that the district enter the parent's and student's information into Project Beacon after the test is administered.

We encourage all families to consent using the web-based self-registration. The ability to perform rapid tests in school allows students, families and the school to respond more rapidly to COVID-19 situations. It will also support families in the testing process.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.



Scott E. Knief
Superintendent