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The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Department of Public Health (DPH) are offering a new at-home rapid antigen COVID-19 testing program to all school districts in Massachusetts. The Carver Public Schools has decided to participate in this program. The testing program will be available to all staff and students regardless of vaccination status. For more information from DESE and DPH about this statewide testing program, please <u>click here</u>.

The district will be providing staff and students who opt-in with at-home rapid antigen COVID-19 tests on a weekly basis. Participation in the program is voluntary, though we do encourage families to participate, only those who opt-in will receive tests. The at-home testing program will begin during the week of February 6, 2022. In addition to this new at-home antigen COVID-19 test option, we will continue with symptomatic testing for students and staff during the school day as needed. As part of this shift in the program, we are discontinuing Test and Stay and contact tracing for in-school close contacts. Families who decide to opt into the program will receive additional information including the test distribution process, materials on administering the test, and the process for reporting positive test results.

To receive weekly at-home antigen tests you must complete the following form by Friday, January 28, 2022 to opt-in: <u>Click here to complete the Opt In Form</u> (https://forms.gle/GFLxCfemmWQv8WSj6)

If you decide not to have your student(s) participate no action is required.



Scott E. Knief, Superintendent

Overview: At-Home Rapid Testing Program

- About the Test: <u>iHealth</u> is a 15-minute at-home FDA-approved rapid antigen test
- **Opt-In:** To participate, you must opt in by completing the <u>online form</u>. By opting in, you agree to review the training materials for test administration prior to the first day of testing, test your student on Sunday evenings weekly starting February 6, 2022, and report positive test results to your student's school nurse.
- **Weekly**: Every two weeks you will receive an iHealth at-home rapid test kit. Each kit contains two individual tests. Your student will take one test each week on Sunday.
- Reporting Positive Test Results: If your student tests positive on an at-home antigen test, you will inform
 their school of the positive result by notifying the school nurse. 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.

How do I administer the test?

• <u>Click here</u> for a **full "how to"** written guide in various languages

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• Click here for a video of an individual self-testing