

Updated January 13, 2022

As a school approved by The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) for testing, we must follow their strict guidelines. We are participating in 2 testing plans

- Test and stay allows students/staff who have had close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual while at school to stay in school if not showing symptoms. This promotes less school time missed while quarantining at home. These students/staff will take a daily rapid test and remain in school as long as they are asymptomatic. The duration of Test and Stay is 5 days from time of exposure. Written consent is required to participate in this program.
  - Individuals participating in Test and Stay should stay home and quarantine when they are not in the school setting. DESE considers school a “managed environment” and home and community sites have less consistent levels of protection.
  - If an individual tests positive for COVID-19 during Test and Stay they will follow DESE/DPH protocol ([see link below](#)) for quarantining at home.
  - Individuals who are NOT eligible for Test and Stay
    - Fully vaccinated individuals who are asymptomatic
    - Identified close contact that happened outside of school
    - Symptoms of COVID-19 already present
- Symptomatic Testing
  - For students or staff who develop COVID-19 suspect symptoms during the school day
  - Testing will be administered if a consent is available
  - If already displaying symptoms at home, we will not test you when you come to school
  - The testing is not to be used for broad scale symptomatic testing in school

The link for current DESE/DPH Protocols for Responding to COVID-19

<https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/protocols/>

While our nursing team follows DESE and DPH protocol, nursing judgment allows for alternate plans as needed for the health and safety of your family and our SICS community. Thank you for your support as we navigate this persistent pandemic.

Kathleen Dupuis, RN Nurse Leader K-12