



HEAD OF
SCHOOL

Dear Members of the Governor's Community,

When I last shared with you, on August 12, our framework for a phased reopening of school, I noted difficulties with two aspects of our comprehensive testing plan. I am writing today to give you an update on our efforts to resolve the testing challenges:

- We have now contracted with an alternate testing company to conduct our community-wide testing for students on the dates that we had originally identified: September 4, 8, and 9. They are confident that they can get results to us within a 48 to 72-hour window, which meets our needs.
- We have also located a Sofia 2 rapid analyzer through a physician in the Govs community who has generously offered to loan us the machine for this initial period. Unfortunately, it is not just the machines that are in short supply. The testing kits themselves are also backlogged. At present it seems unlikely that we would be able to acquire the necessary supplies until after the third week of classes.

Thus, we will open in Phase 2 rather than in Phase 3, which means that we are essentially a day school to begin the school year. Once we are able to secure the appropriate supplies for the Sofia 2 analyzer, we will bring our boarders to campus. We anticipate that this would occur in early October and will update you on those plans on September 21.

Some boarding students may be able to shift to day status for the first few weeks of school and then move into the dorms once we can make that transition. For other boarding students, our Phase 2 start will mean attending class virtually to start the year. We understand that some boarding families may be en route to Byfield and may need help with accommodations in September. All boarding families should fill out this [survey](#) as soon as possible so that we can get the necessary information to be able to assist you and to construct pod and classroom configurations to meet student needs. We would appreciate this information by this Sunday, August 23.

All students who will attend school in person are still required to follow our community-wide testing protocol. We will send follow up communication, including a detailed testing schedule and procedure, next week.

We will host a webinar to address your questions on **Monday, August 24 at 7:00 p.m. EDT**. You will have an opportunity to submit questions when you register for the webinar, and you will also be able

to ask questions during the webinar itself. [Register for the webinar.](#)

While I recognize that Phase 2 is better than opening in Phase 1 (entirely virtual), I know it is a disappointment for many, including our boarding students who have been looking forward to coming back to campus and some who have already traveled quite a distance to comply with quarantine protocol; with so much at stake, though, we need to err on the side of being cautious and doing everything we can to keep our community healthy. The testing plan is a key part of that effort and we want to make sure we have our full plan in place.

In closing, I want to affirm our shared commitment to meet the needs of our students and to partner with you. Until we can all gather together in person in Byfield, we will continue to work to deliver the best possible experience for every student.

My best,
Peter

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