



Date: September 10, 2021

Dear families and students,

Thank you for your continued support as we kick off the 2021-2022 school year. At Keefe Tech, keeping your students safe and in school is our top priority. We have learned a great deal over this past year and our current guidance and procedures reflect the most updated recommendations from the CDC and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

For the 2021-22 school year, we are offering an extra layer of protection to prevent the spread of COVID-19, our COVID-19 testing program at school. This program has three components: **symptomatic testing** for students who show symptoms of COVID-19 at school, **routine COVID safety checks** to prevent the spread of the virus undetected among students who are not showing symptoms, and **test and stay** for students who may have been exposed but are not showing symptoms. Each of these is a quick, non-invasive nasal swab that is collected under the supervision of a school nurse or trained health provider. Unlike COVID-19 tests of the past, these are not uncomfortable and easy for students to do themselves.

Students only participate with permission from a parent or guardian; students over age 18 can provide their own consent to participate. It is important to Keefe Tech that you are fully informed regarding the process and that we can answer any questions. Below we describe each of the three parts of our testing program, how they are conducted, and what they are used for.

**Symptomatic testing** is used when a student is showing symptoms of COVID-19 during school; students should not come to school if they are feeling sick while at home. Some symptoms of the virus look identical to other illnesses like the cold or flu, and this test tells us whether a symptomatic student has COVID-19 or not. This is a rapid test, and we receive the results of this test within 15 minutes. If a student has minimal symptoms and tests negative, they can remain in school.

**Routine COVID safety checks** minimize disruption to learning by helping us catch potential spread of the virus before it starts. Each student administers the safety check on a weekly basis. Samples are collected at school in groups of 5-10 individuals. The samples are grouped together at school. Once the samples get to the lab, all the samples in the group are tested for COVID-19 together. In almost all cases, it will take less than 24 hours to receive safety check results. Students can continue to come to school while awaiting safety check results; they do not need to quarantine while awaiting results. If a safety check test is positive, the students in the group will take individual tests to determine which student(s) in the group produced the positive test.

**Test and stay** allows students who have had close contact with a person who tested positive for COVID-19 to stay in school if the student is not showing symptoms. Instead of needing to quarantine and miss school, these students will take a daily rapid test while they remain in school as long as they are not symptomatic. Students

participate in test and stay for at least five days after they may have been exposed.

If a student tests positive for COVID-19, they must quarantine at home for the CDC-recommended ten days since symptoms appeared or ten days since the positive test before returning to school. The student must also be without a fever for 24 hours.

Although students who are vaccinated are much less likely to spread or contract the virus, it is important for us to create an inclusive environment for both vaccinated and unvaccinated students.

To participate in the program, you must complete the consent form on behalf of your student. Students over 18 can consent for themselves. There is no charge for participating. This year we are partnering with CIC Health as our testing provider (<https://www.cic-health.com/>). Please see below for more information about providing an electronic consent. If you have already provided a paper consent, we are working with CIC Health to migrate those forms into the electronic database.

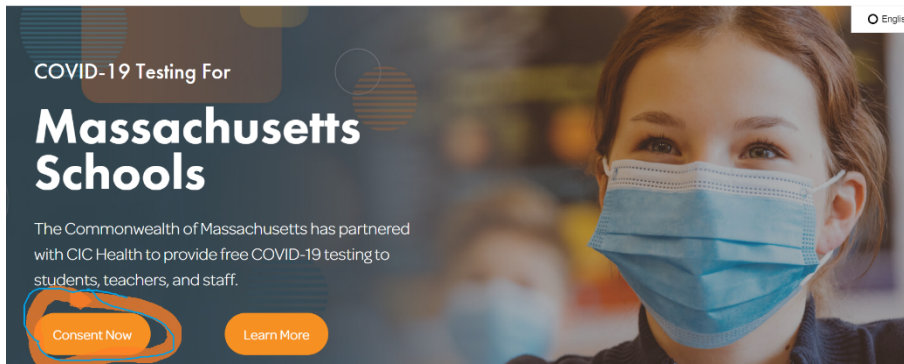
If you have additional questions regarding the program, please contact us in the school nurses' office, at 508-416-2263. It is our hope that these measures will work together to keep our school safe and your student in school. Thanks again for your support during this challenging time.

Sincerely,  
Bridget Veale, RN, BSN, CPN ([bveale@jpkeefehs.org](mailto:bveale@jpkeefehs.org))  
Mindy Wade, RN ([mwade@jpkeefehs.org](mailto:mwade@jpkeefehs.org))

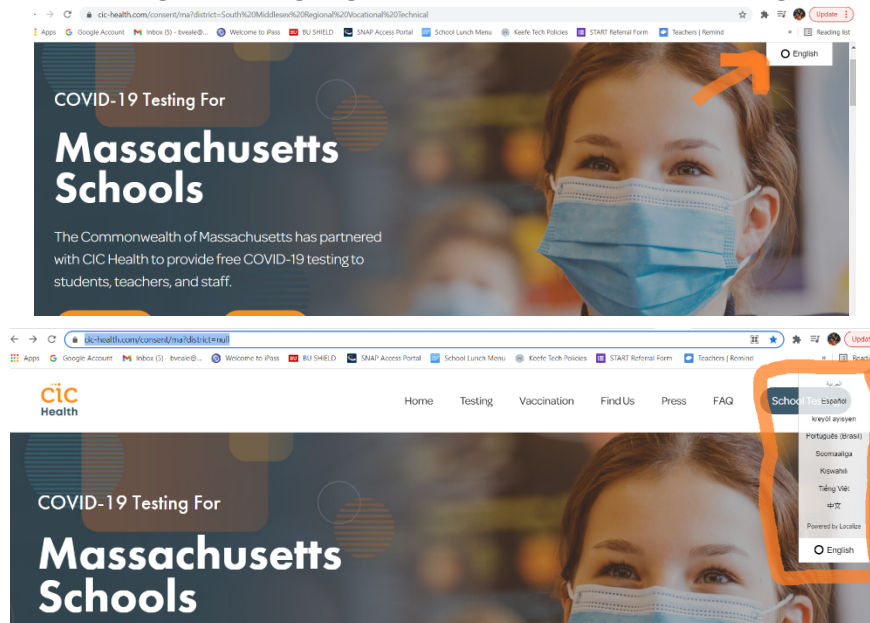
### **How to Provide an Electronic Consent for COVID Testing on the CIC Website**

Visit the CIC website <https://www.cic-health.com/consent/ma?district=null> or scan their QR code.





You can change the language of the consent form in the right corner.



## Get Started

Step 1: Select your school district

South Middlesex Regional Vocational Technical

Step 2: Select your school

Joseph P. Keefe Technical High School

Sign Consent Form For Yourself

Sign Consent Form For a Minor

Please contact the nurses' office with any questions. Thank you!!