



Voluntary COVID-19 Student Testing Option

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Dear Westport Families,

The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), in collaboration with the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE), has received federal funding to offer a weekly serial COVID-19 testing option for unvaccinated students in grades K-6 at no cost. The purpose of this program is to quickly identify cases and reduce the risk of school-based COVID-19 transmission. This program will be completely voluntary and will require signed parental consent.

The test will be an anterior shallow nasal swab PCR test that only includes the lower nasal area. Each participating child will be swabbed weekly at school. All specimens are initially processed as a "pooled" PCR test which will include testing samples from 5 different students. If a pool of specimens tests positive, individual PCR tests to identify the positive participant(s) in the pool will be conducted with the same testing samples. Pooled tests are completed in 24 hours and individual tests, if needed, are completed within another 24 hours. In the event that a "pooled" sample is positive, the five students in that pool will be asked to remain out of school for the additional 24 hours until the positive individual case is identified.

Westport has been assigned Progressive Diagnostics as our testing partner and more information can be found in the link below.

<https://progressive-diagnostics.com/school-testing/>.

We anticipate testing to start in the upcoming weeks. If you would like your child to be part of this testing program, please complete the attached consent form.

<https://progressive-diagnostics.com/school-testing/consent-form/>

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