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## COVID-19 Student Testing Option Update

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Suzanne Levasseur <do\_not\_reply@westportps.org>  
Reply-To: Suzanne Levasseur <do\_not\_reply@westportps.org>

Fri, Dec 17, 2021 at 7:00 AM

Dear Westport Families,

For the past several weeks, the Westport Public Schools have provided the option of a weekly serial COVID-19 testing program for **unvaccinated students** in grades K-6. This program was made available through a collaboration with the State of Connecticut and is free of charge to all families. Per the State guidelines, only unvaccinated students are eligible for this testing program.

Students in the 5-11 age group have recently been eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. Once these students are considered fully vaccinated, they would no longer be eligible for the testing program. A student is considered fully vaccinated 14 days after they receive their second COVID vaccine. For the many students who attended our school wide vaccination clinic, the date of becoming fully vaccinated would be Saturday December 18th. Therefore, these students would not be eligible for testing beginning on December 20th.

As a reminder, if your student is fully vaccinated we ask that you submit a record of the vaccination to your school nurse. Submitting this is optional but assists with contact tracing when necessary.

Recently this program has been expanded to include students in grades 7-12 **who are unvaccinated. This program is completely voluntary and will require signed parental consent.** Students will be out of class no longer than a few minutes and the test itself takes approximately 15 seconds. Again, this is only for **UNVACCINATED** students.

Any student who has had a positive COVID-19 diagnosis within the last 90 days would not need to be tested.

The test will be an anterior shallow nasal swab PCR test that only includes the lower nasal area. Each participating child will be tested weekly at school. Parents will be able to create a confidential HIPPA compliant patient portal where their results will be published and stored. The parent email on the consent form will be the email used to communicate the patient portal information. More information can be found in the link below.

Westport has been assigned Progressive Diagnostics as our testing partner and they have developed a "Frequently asked Questions" page for anyone interested in the program. More information can be found in the link below which includes the frequently asked question page. Please complete the consent form in this link if you wish to have your unvaccinated child tested each week.

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

We are happy to continue this program as an additional mitigating measure for our community. Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Suzanne Levasseur  
Supervisor of Health Services  
203-341-1251

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