



April 13, 2022

Dear Foxcroft Academy Community,

Despite pooled testing's success to date, the greater contagiousness of the BA.2 variant of COVID-19 lessens pooled testing's effectiveness in limiting the spread of COVID-19 in schools. Thus, *the final date of pool testing at Foxcroft Academy will be April 25th, 2022.*

Foxcroft Academy utilized many mitigation strategies to support this pandemic over the course of the last several years. In addition to pooled testing, Foxcroft Academy staff have administered nearly 1000 Rapid Antigen COVID-19 tests in the past 8 months alone. As the worst of the global pandemic seems behind us, DHHS guidance on Use of POC BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Cards in the School Setting has been reviewed. It has been determined to only allow these tests to be used in the school setting for students and staff in this situation:

A one-time test for students and staff who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 during the school day and are within the first seven days of symptom onset.

Students who present to the nurse's office during the school day and have symptoms of COVID-19 can still receive a COVID test. Otherwise, students who have missed school due to illness will be *required to meet the personal responsibility of testing at home*. The state provided tests will no longer be used for personal travel, school related sporting events, or other personal events. Families should be encouraged to request free tests through the [Federal Free COVID Tests Program](#) and [Project Access COVID tests \(ACT\)](#). For more information, please visit [Maine's COVID-19 Testing website](#).

There's no clear-cut data point that indicates the end of a pandemic. There won't be a definitive day when we can declare the coronavirus pandemic over. However, we are pleased to take another united step forward and are prepared to respond to future variants as a community.

Kimberly Orff, RN, BSN
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