



Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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Jeffrey C. Riley
Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

To: Superintendents, Charter School Leaders, Assistant Superintendents,
Collaborative Leaders, Leaders of Approved Special Education Schools
From: Jeffrey C. Riley, Commissioner, Department of Elementary and Secondary
Education
Date: May 24, 2022
Subject: Update on K-12 COVID-19 Testing Program for Spring, Summer and Fall 2022

I am writing to provide you with an update on the statewide K-12 COVID-19 testing program for the remainder of the school year, summer and fall of 2022. For the remainder of the 2021-22 school year, the statewide K-12 COVID testing program will remain in place as it currently exists. However, while schools will continue to have the option of distributing self-tests to interested students and staff and to continue pooled testing, participation in one of those testing programs will no longer be required to discontinue contact tracing and test and stay. The end of the 2021-22 school year will mark the end of the state-run, state-coordinated K-12 testing program, although districts and schools will have access to state-provided self-tests to conduct symptomatic testing themselves during summer school. The following sections provide key information on the upcoming phases of implementation.

Spring 2022

Self-tests may now also be made available for the school community more widely, in accordance with the state's [self-test guidance](#). Districts and schools can choose to make self-tests available to students and school community members prior to in-person, school-sponsored events (e.g., prom or graduation).

Summer 2022

For school-based summer programs (e.g., summer school, acceleration academies, extended school year, etc.), **we will continue to provide self-tests for symptomatic testing. Staffing, software, and all other services currently provided through CIC Health will no longer be available through the state-run program.** Districts and schools will need to provide staffing for in-school symptomatic testing for school-based summer programs.

To order self-tests for school-based summer programs, participating districts and schools must update the total number of required summer tests in the [CIC supply hub](#) by Wednesday, June 1, 2022. CIC will distribute a one-time allocation of self-tests for summer use during the week of June 6. Districts and schools are encouraged to estimate the total amount of

tests they will need for symptomatic testing the entire summer. Districts and schools **not** already participating in the self-test program through CIC should email k12covid19testing@mass.gov to request self-tests for school-based summer program use.

Fall 2022

The state will no longer supply self-tests or other COVID testing services to schools and districts beginning in the fall. For school year 2022-23, DESE and DPH strongly recommend that schools and districts interested in implementing their own testing program limit that program to symptomatic rapid testing only. Schools and districts may purchase self-tests through the statewide contract.

High-level Overview of Changes

	Spring 2022	Summer 2022	Fall 2022
Surveillance (both pooled and self-tests) & Test and Stay testing	Current program continues	No state program support	No state program support
Symptomatic testing	Current program continues	Schools will have access to state-provided self-tests for school-based summer programs	Schools can purchase self-tests through statewide contact
CIC Health Support (including managing consent forms)	Current program continues	CIC Health services no longer available	CIC Health services no longer available

Vaccine Clinics

As a reminder, vaccines continue to be the best way to protect individuals against the effects of COVID-19. Please encourage students and staff to get vaccinated. We strongly encourage districts and schools to host mobile vaccination clinics to continue to provide access to vaccines and boosters for staff and students. Schools can request vaccination clinics through [this online form](#).

Closing

I am grateful for your diligence and resourcefulness over the last two years, including using our testing program as one of many important mitigation strategies to maintain in-person learning for our students.