**OPT-IN LETTER FOR FAMILIES - COVID ANTIGEN TESTING**

2/4/22

Dear parent/caregiver:

At North Shore Montessori School (NSMS), keeping your students safe and in school is our top priority. We are writing to let you know, in accordance with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Department of Public Health (DPH), our district is updating our COVID-19 Testing Program, effective February 2022. We are opting into an at-home testing program that will increase testing of our participating students and staff, regardless of vaccination status.

For more information about this update to the statewide testing program, please [click here](https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/2022-0118new-testing-program.pdf). We anticipate that the at-home testing option will begin during the week of February 14, perhaps even earlier. In addition to this new at-home antigen test option, we will continue with our MyMedBot app, routine COVID safety checks and symptomatic testing, as warranted. As part of this shift in the program, we are discontinuing Test and Stay and contact tracing for in-school close contacts. This means that if your child is a potential contact in school, they may continue to come to school and do not have to quarantine. This new at-home testing opportunity is voluntary and only those who opt-in will receive tests. We strongly encourage you to fill out the form by February 9 to opt-in. If you have questions, please contact Margaret.

**COVID-19 Testing Programs in our Schools:**

1. **At-Home Rapid Antigen Testing** on Mondays *(You must sign an* [*opt-in form*](https://3f5105ff-72d4-4a71-8e1e-81748680aa7c.filesusr.com/ugd/18aed7_7cc61a4ba64b4be8abc711ec2c7c3bd2.docx?dn=optin-form-students%20(1).docx) *AND* [*consent form*](https://3f5105ff-72d4-4a71-8e1e-81748680aa7c.filesusr.com/ugd/18aed7_8975ad696964414eabd4ad88be5f3845.docx?dn=student-consent-form.docx)*)*
2. **Routine COVID Safety Checks** every week *(You must sign up by* [*clicking here*](https://www.cic-health.com/consent/ma#consent)*)*
3. **Symptomatic Testing** *(Same permission as item 1.* [*click here*](https://www.cic-health.com/consent/ma#consent)*)*

*All forms are be available on our website:* [*northshoremontessori.org/for-parents*](https://www.northshoremontessori.org/for-parents)

**Overview: At-Home Rapid Testing Program**

* **About the Test**: [iHealth](https://ihealthlabs.com/) is a 15-minute at-home FDA-approved rapid antigen test
* **Opt-In:** To participate, you must opt in by completing the form we are sending home with your child. By opting in, you will agree to review the training materials for test administration, report positive test results to your student’s school, and administer the tests according to NSMS’s guidelines.
* **Weekly**: Every two weeks you will receive an iHealth at-home rapid test kit distributed by the school. Each kit contains two individual tests. Your student will administer one test each week on Monday morning before school.
* **Reporting Positive Test Results:** If your student tests positive on an at-home antigen test, you will inform their school of the positive result using the The school will keep the results confidential and will not make individual results public. In addition, it is strongly recommended that you inform your healthcare professional of the positive result.
* **Easy, Free, and Flexible**: This test is administered at home (not at school), reducing the burden on school staff and time to administer tests and increasing a family’s flexibility to do testing in the home for free.

**How do I administer the test?**

* [Click here](https://www.mass.gov/lists/covid-19-self-test-at-home-instructions-graphic) for a **full “how to”** written guide in various languages
* [Click here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XAzos3k6aCY&t=14s) for a **video** of an individual self-testing



**How do I submit results?**

* **Submit Results**: You must submit positive test results to your student’s school. Email school director Margaret Henry at northshoremontessorischool@gmail.com to submit positive test results. You must use the form that can be found on our Parent Portal, [HERE](https://3f5105ff-72d4-4a71-8e1e-81748680aa7c.filesusr.com/ugd/18aed7_9cf5140e40454a97bd070828bc757a10.docx?dn=positive-result-notification.docx).
* **Confidentiality**: Positive test results are shared with your school district for informational purposes only. Individual results will remain confidential, and they will never be made public.