



From: "DC Public Schools" <email@blackboard.com>
Subject: DCPS Expands COVID-19 Surveillance Testing
Date: January 13, 2022 at 1:32:15 PM EST



January 13, 2022

Dear DCPS Families,

Our commitment throughout this pandemic has been to continuously review and assess our layered mitigation strategy for limiting the spread of COVID-19. Today, I want to provide you with an update on:

1. Our expanded surveillance testing program to monitor COVID-19 within our schools.
2. How you can stay informed on the case rate within your student's school.
3. Our current policies on quarantine and isolation periods.

Please read this important update carefully. As our city continues to address the high number of COVID-19 cases, I urge you to take the life-saving step of getting yourself and your child vaccinated, and if eligible, receiving a booster shot as soon as possible. For the latest schedule of vaccination clinics at our schools (open to the entire family), visit dcsreopenstrong.com/vaccines or vaccinate.dc.gov for other District locations.

Sincerely,

Lewis D. Ferebee, Ed.D.
Chancellor

Expanded Testing of COVID-19

There are four surveillance testing options for students that DCPS will robustly deploy throughout this surge of cases. We are also working with city partners to launch a "Test to Stay" program for close contacts of reported cases at schools and will share more details in the coming weeks.

DCPS COVID-19 Screening Expansion



Safe Return Testing for all students and staff before returning



Weekly Testing for All Pre-K and Kindergarten Students beginning

from February and April breaks

Monday, January 17



Mail-Home Tests for students and staff identified as close contacts



Routine Asymptomatic Testing of at least 20 percent of students



1. **Safe Return Testing:** Following the [February and April breaks](#), families will be required to test their child and upload their test results to our Safe Return portal **before they can return** to the classroom. Test kits will be provided to students to take home with them prior to the break. You will hear more from us before the February break begins on Monday, February 21.
2. **Targeted Early Childhood Weekly Testing:** With many of our youngest learners ineligible to access the lifesaving COVID-19 vaccine, we are dedicating resources to weekly testing of all Pre-K students. Students in PK3 and PK4 will be provided with a rapid test each week and will be required to upload their results each Sunday before returning to the classroom. Kindergarten students will also receive weekly test kits and are highly encouraged to test each week. Tests will be distributed every Friday beginning this week (January 14). Due to the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, families should test on Monday, January 17 and upload their results by 4:00 p.m. that day. Pre-K and kindergarten families will receive the link with where to upload their test results.
3. **Mail-Home Testing for Close Contacts:** Students who are identified as close contacts can request test kits be mailed directly to their home after exposure to a positive individual within our schools. Beginning the week of January 18, if a student is identified as a close contact, families will be provided with a link to request the at-home testing kit.
4. **Routine Asymptomatic Testing:** Each week, all 116 schools conduct asymptomatic testing, working to test at least 20 percent of our student population.

Staying Informed on COVID-19 Cases

Prior to the winter break, we announced that community notices sent to school communities will include a total number of COVID-19 cases reported to the school each day. You can now view each day's totals at dcpstreopenstrong.com/updates. Community notices will be sent Sunday through Friday, except for school holidays. This information is based on cases initially reported to schools prior to 11:00 a.m. that day. Final verified case counts will continue to be available at coronavirus.dc.gov/page/dc-schools-data.

Guidance on Quarantine and Isolation

DC Health is reviewing the guidance from CDC on shortening the isolation and quarantine periods. For now, current quarantine and isolation guidance remains in effect. This means that:

- An individual who tests positive for COVID-19 must isolate for at least ten days.
- An unvaccinated or partially vaccinated individual who is exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 must quarantine for 10 days. They can exit quarantine after day 7 provided they take a PCR test on or after day 5 and receive a negative test result.
- Fully vaccinated individuals who are exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 are not required to quarantine but are recommended to take a test 3 to 5 days after exposure.