

HOLYOKE COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL

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COVID-19 At-Home Rapid Antigen OPT-IN LETTER FOR STAFF

January 19, 2022

Dear STAFF MEMBER:

We are writing to let you know, in accordance with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Department of Public Health (DPH), our district is updating our COVID-19 Testing Program, effective January 24, 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](#). The at-home testing option will begin during the week of January 24. In addition to this new at-home antigen test option, we will continue with routine COVID safety checks and symptomatic testing during the week. 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 you are a potential contact in school, you 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 January 20 to opt-in. If you have questions, please contact Dr. Pope.

COVID-19 Testing Programs in our Schools:

1. **At-Home Rapid Antigen Testing** on Thursdays (*NEW opt-in form*)
2. **Routine COVID Safety Checks** every week (*teachers must be pool tested at 7:30 am, not during school hours*) [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER IF YOU HAVE NOT REGISTERED YET](#)
3. **Symptomatic Testing** (*If you have not yet signed up, [click here](#)*)

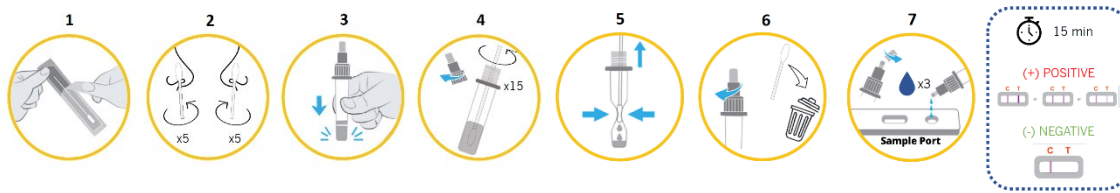
Overview: At-Home Rapid Testing Program

- **About the Test:** [iHealth](#) is a 15-minute at-home FDA-approved rapid antigen test
- **Opt-In:** To participate, you must opt in by completing the [online form](#). By opting in, you will agree to review the training materials for test administration, report positive test results, and administer the tests according to HCCS guidelines.
- **Weekly:** Every two weeks you will receive an iHealth at-home rapid test kit. Each kit contains two individual tests. You will administer one test each week on Thursday.
- **Reporting Positive Test Results:** If you test positive on an at-home antigen test, you will report the positive result using a notification link, that will be provided to you. The district 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 your flexibility to do testing in the home for free.



Training: How do I administer the test?

- [Click here](#) for a full “how to” written guide in various languages
- [Click here](#) for a video of an individual self-testing



How do I submit results?

- **Submit Results:** You must submit positive test results. The link to submit positive test results will be provided to you.
- **Confidentiality:** Positive test results are shared with the district for informational purposes only. Individual results will remain confidential, and they will never be made public.

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