*****Massachusetts Department of***

***Elementary and Secondary Education***

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| Jeffrey C. Riley  *Commissioner* |  |

# MEMORANDUM

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| **To:** | Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education |
| **From:** | Jeffrey C. Riley, Commissioner |
| **Date:** | June 22, 2022 |
| **Subject:** | Update on Action Steps to Support Schools, Students, and Families |

Since our meeting on May 24, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department or DESE) has continued to inform districts of new developments related to COVID-19 and to support schools and districts as they navigate teaching and learning during the pandemic.

On May 25, we sent a memo to schools and districts alerting them to updates in the K-12 COVID-19 testing program for the spring, summer, and fall. This summer, we will continue to provide self-tests for symptomatic testing, but staffing, software, and all other services currently provided through CIC Health will no longer be available through the state-run program. As of the fall, the state will no longer supply self-tests or other COVID-19 testing services to schools and districts. The Department of Public Health and DESE strongly recommend that schools and districts interested in implementing their own testing program limit the program to symptomatic rapid testing only. Schools and districts can purchase self-tests through the statewide contract.

Also on May 25, the Department of Public Health published [updated quarantine and isolation guidance](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-isolation-and-quarantine-guidance-for-children-in-child-care-k-12-out-of-school-time-ost-and-recreational-campprogram-settings) for children in child care, K-12 schools, out-of-school time programs, and recreational camp settings.

We continue to make schools and districts aware of opportunities to hold mobile vaccination clinics through the Department of Public Health. Camps are also eligible to hold a clinic.

As always, the DESE Rapid Respond COVID-19 Help Center remains open and available for consultation with districts and schools.

Attachments:

* [Update on K-12 COVID-19 Testing Program for Spring, Summer and Fall 2022](https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/2022-0524testing-program-update.pdf) — May 25, 2022
* [Isolation and Quarantine Guidance for Students in Educational Settings](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-isolation-and-quarantine-guidance-for-children-in-child-care-k-12-out-of-school-time-ost-and-recreational-campprogram-settings) — May 25, 2022
* [Commissioner’s Weekly Update](https://mailchi.mp/doe.mass.edu/commissioners-weekly-update-5-31-22-board-recap-keeping-students-safe-covid-19-testing-update?e=e54ceaa84b#covidvaccin) – May 31, 2022
* [DESE and DPH Letter to Schools about COVID-19 Vaccination for Children Under 5](https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/2022-0621vaccination-under-5.pdf) — June 21, 2022
  + [DESE and DPH Letter to Families about COVID-19 Vaccination for Children Under 5](https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/2022-0621vaccination-under-5-family-letter.pdf) — June 21, 2022