



ATHOL-ROYALSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
1062 Pleasant Street, Athol, MA 01331
Tel: 978-249-2400 • Fax: 978-249-2402

October 27, 2021

Dear ARRSD Parents/Guardians:

The Athol-Royalston Regional School District has enrolled in the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education COVID-19 **test and stay program**. The test and stay program is designed for students who may have been exposed to COVID-19 while in school but are not showing any symptoms. The test is a non-invasive nasal swab that is collected under the supervision of a trained health provider.

Students **only participate in the COVID-19 test and stay with permission from a parent or guardian**. It is important to Athol-Royalston Regional School District that you are fully informed regarding the process and that we can answer any questions that you might have in advance of asking you to sign the **COVID-19 test and stay consent form**. Below we describe the **COVID-19 test and stay program**, how it is conducted, and what it is used for.

COVID-19 test and stay allows students who have had close contact with a person who tested positive for COVID-19 while at school to stay in school if the student is not showing symptoms. Instead of needing to quarantine and miss school, these students will take a daily rapid test while they remain in school as long as they are not symptomatic. Students participate in COVID-19 test and stay program **for at least five days after they may have been exposed**.

If a student tests positive for COVID-19, they must isolate at home for the CDC-recommended ten days since symptoms appeared or ten days since the positive test before returning to school. The student must also be without a fever for 24 hours.

To participate in the program, **you must sign the consent form** from the link below on behalf of your student and to allow them to put into the district's database.. There is no charge for participating. If you have additional questions regarding the program, please contact Andrea Bishop at abishop@arrsd.org Or 978-249-2435, ext. 133.

<https://www.cic-health.com/consent/ma>

If you are unable to complete this form on a computer please call the Athol-Royalston Regional School District Family and Community Center, 978-249-2435 and they can help you complete it over the phone. Please ask to speak to Andrea Bishop or Gladys Torres.

It is our hope that these measures will work together to keep our schools safe and your student in school. Thanks again for your support during this challenging time. We look forward to welcoming your students back to the classroom.

Sincerely,

Darcy Fernandes
ARRSD Superintendent of Schools