

February 28, 2022

Dear parent/caregiver:

At the Athol-Royalston Regional School District, keeping your students safe and in school is our top priority. 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 immediately. 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 as soon as possible. If you would like to sign your child up for the program please click the ARRSD At-Home Consent Link Below and fill out the form. Once you have done this your child will get free at home testing kits to monitor him/her.

In addition to this new at-home antigen test option, we will continue with 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 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 as soon as possible to opt-in. If you have questions, please contact Andrea Bishop, ARRSD COVID-19 Lead, 978-249-2435, ext. 133 or abishop@arrsd.org.

COVID-19 Testing Programs in our Schools:

1. **At-Home Rapid Antigen Testing** on Wednesday; [ARRSD COVID-19 At-Home Test Consent Form Link](#)
2. **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 Emergency Use Authorized antigen test.
- **Opt-In:** To participate, you must opt in by completing the opt-in form; [ARRSD COVID-19 At-Home Test Consent Form Link](#)
- 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 Athol-Royalston Regional School District guidelines.
- **Weekly:** Every two weeks you will receive an iHealth at-home rapid test kit. Each kit contains two individual tests. Your student will administer one test each week on Wednesday.
- **Reporting Positive Test Results:** If your student tests positive on an at-home antigen test, you will inform your child's school nurse or email Andrea Bishop, ARRSD COVID-19 Lead, abishop@arrsd.org. 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. Also, your child will be required to wear their mask for days 6-10 while at school after their quarantine at home for days 1-5.

- **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](#) 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 to your student's school nurse or Andrea Bishop, COVID-19 Lead, abishop@arrsd.org or 978-249-2435, ext. 133..
- **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.