

January 6, 2022

Dear EASTCONN Families, Students and Staff,

Happy New Year! We are excited to welcome you all back to school in 2022.

In response to what we all hope is the final spike in positive COVID cases statewide, and in an effort to maintain in-person learning, the Connecticut State Department of Education, in collaboration with the Department of Public Health, have provided a limited number of COVID self-test kits to all schools.

While we know that transmission of COVID is extremely low in schools, our community transmission is currently high. The purpose of these rapid self-test kits is to help further prevent the spread of COVID-19 by monitoring illness with early detection of the virus. The rapid home test kits will be provided to staff or students who exhibit symptoms and are unable to obtain a rapid home test on their own or PCR test in a timely manner. The rapid home tests will be used to screen those who are symptomatic to determine if they should be present in school.

#### **How will test kits be given out?**

- School nurses will distribute test kits to a staff member or student if they:
  - Exhibit any COVID-19 symptoms and need to be tested,
  - Have had direct exposure to an individual with COVID-19,
  - Are unable to obtain a rapid test kit on their own or receive PCR test results in a timely manner.

(For those students or staff who have had COVID-19 in the past 90 days, testing should only be done if directed by a medical provider.)

#### **What is the process for testing and communicating results?**

- Students will receive the iHealth test kit to take at home.
- Staff will receive the Flow Flex test kit with instructions.
- Instructions for test administration can be found in English and Spanish within the test kit.
- Directions in additional languages can be found at <https://portal.ct.gov/coronavirus/self-test>.
- Once you have completed the test, take a picture of the results and send it to your school nurse via email or text with the student name and parent/guardian name submitting the results, or staff name.
- For students, tests are to be administered by parents/guardians to determine if your child is negative before returning to school. *These tests are not to be used for family members.*
- For staff, *these tests are not to be used for unvaccinated weekly submission.*

#### **What if the result is positive?**

- If a student or staff member tests positive, it is essential that they report the positive test result to their school nurse immediately to obtain further instructions.
- The attached chart that will be referenced for decision-making and for returning to school.

#### **What if the result is negative?**

- If a student or staff member tests negative, it is still essential that they report the negative test result to their school nurse immediately.
- If the test result is negative and there are no symptoms and no known exposure to a COVID-19 case, then the student or staff member should return to in-person learning.

EASTCONN schools and programs will continue to communicate to families and staff regarding positive cases as they occur. We are confident that our continued in-school mitigation strategies of masks, social distancing and frequent sanitizing, along with your help in communications, will allow us to maintain in-person learning.

We appreciate your collaboration and wish everyone a healthy new year!

Sincerely,  
Diane Dugas, EASTCONN Director of Leading and Learning  
Amy Margelony, EASTCONN Director of Pupil Services