



Winthrop Public Schools

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Winthrop Public Schools Student at Home Rapid Antigen Testing Opt-In Notification

January 26, 2022

Dear parent/caregiver:

At Winthrop Public Schools, 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 February 7, 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 the week of February 7, 2022, **students test for the first time on February 8, 2022, at home and after school dismissal**. In addition to this new at-home antigen test option, we will continue with symptomatic testing during the week for any student or staff who is symptomatic at school. 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 test kits**. We strongly encourage you to **fill out the form by February 2, 2022, to opt-in and receive at home test kits**. If you have questions, please contact your school's nurse.

COVID-19 Testing Programs in our Schools:

1. **At-Home Rapid Antigen Testing to be done at home, on Tuesdays after school is dismissed.**
2. **Symptomatic Testing** is conducted as needed and determined by the school nurse

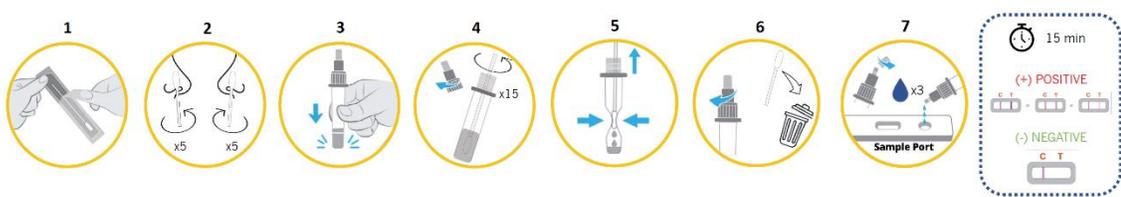
Overview: At-Home Rapid Testing Program

- **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 to your student's school, and administer the tests according to Winthrop Public School's 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 **Tuesdays after school is dismissed**. The distribution day will be communicated in an updated notice to families.
- **Reporting Positive Test Results:** If your student tests positive on an at-home antigen test, you will inform their school of the positive result using the [Positive Test Result Notification form](#). 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.
- **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. Click [here](#) to submit positive test your results. *Please know, this is the same link that was listed above that is titled “Positive Test Result Notification Form”.*
- **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.

“The Winthrop Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, gender identity, disability, or homelessness for employment, participation in, admission/access to, or operation and administration of any educational program or activity in the School District”