



Dartmouth Public Schools

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Bonny L. Gifford, Ed.D.
Superintendent

James A. Kiely, M.B.A.
Assistant Superintendent of
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September 17, 2021

Dear Dartmouth Staff and Families,

I want to provide you with the most current information regarding the Test and Stay program and Symptomatic Testing. On Thursday, September 16th, all schools began to implement Symptomatic Testing.

Symptomatic Testing is used when an individual presents symptoms while at school. **As a reminder it is extremely important that students and staff not come to school if experiencing symptoms while at home.** Shallow nasal swab samples are collected at school using the BinaxNOW rapid antigen test. Depending upon the test result and the combination of symptoms a student is presenting, that student may be sent home or allowed to return to class.

We are also pleased to announce that the Test and Stay program will start on Monday, September 20, 2021 at the **Dartmouth Middle School** and **Dartmouth High School** only. The testing area will be open from 7 a.m. until 8:00 a.m.

Middle and high school students identified as close contacts by the school nurse and who have a consent form on file will be eligible to participate in the Test and Stay program. The Test and Stay program allows asymptomatic close contacts to remain in school as opposed to quarantining at home. This program involves daily testing before school for 7 days.

If you have not submitted a consent form for your child or as a staff member please do so at the [CIC Health](#) website.

We are hopeful the **elementary program** will be up and running soon. We are working to secure enough personnel to ensure we can implement the program efficiently.

Sincerely,

Bonny L. Gifford, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools