



January 26, 2022

Dear Somerset and Somerset Berkley Families,

In Somerset and Somerset Berkley, our top priority is to keep students and staff safe in our schools while maintaining an effective learning environment. I am writing to let you know, in accordance with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Department of Public Health (DPH), Somerset and Somerset Berkley are opting in to 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 is expected to begin in early February. In addition to this new at-home antigen test option, we will continue with in-school testing of symptomatic students for whom parents and guardians have provided consent. 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 by January 28, 2022, to opt-in for this program when it begins.

By Somerset and Somerset Berkley choosing to participate in this new testing option for students, we aim to decrease positive cases in our schools while also eliminating the need to identify in-school close contacts. This will keep more students in school and learning rather than having to quarantine at home for up to five days.

Families who have not already opted into the symptomatic testing program (test and stay program until now) may do so by clicking [here](#).

Overview: At-Home Rapid Testing Program

- **About the Test:** [iHealth](#) is a 15-minute at-home FDA-approved rapid antigen test

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- **Opt-In:** To participate, you must opt-in by completing an online form by clicking [here](#). 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 the districts' 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 Sunday.
- **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 maintained by each school nurse. This form will be located on each school's website as well as the district's website. 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 using an online submission that will be located on each school's website.
- **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.

In order to opt-in to this program, complete the brief online form that can be accessed above by clicking the yellow highlighted text. If you choose not to participate, no action is needed.

Please contact your school nurse or central office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Schoonover