



School Administrative Unit 21

August 24, 2022

To: SAU21 Families and Staff,

On August 11, 2022 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued new guidance to assist understanding risk, protection, and actions when exposed or testing positive for the COVID-19 virus. According to the CDC, while the virus continues to circulate, there is significantly less risk of severe illness given new tools including vaccinations, boosters, and treatments. The updated guidance includes:

- Reminder to promote the importance of being [up to date with vaccination](#)
- Recommending that instead of quarantining if exposed to COVID-19, wear a high-quality mask for 10 days and get tested on day 5.
- If testing positive for COVID-19, stay home for at least 5 days and isolate from others. If after 5 days you are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medication, and your symptoms are improving, or you never had symptoms, you may end isolation after day 5. Wear a high-quality mask through day 10.
- Screening testing of asymptomatic (no symptoms) people without known exposures is no longer recommended in most community settings.
- Routine screening testing in K-12 schools is no longer recommended. However, K-12 schools may consider implementing screening testing for students and staff for high-risk activities (close contact sports, band, choir, theater); at key times in the year, for example before/after large events (such as prom, tournaments, group travel); and when returning from breaks (such as, holidays, spring break, at the beginning of the school year). In any screening testing program, testing should include both vaccinated and unvaccinated people.

SAU21 districts will continue to offer voluntary access to the [Safer at Schools Screening \(SASS\)](#) Program to participating students and staff funded by the State of New Hampshire. Participation in the bi-weekly asymptomatic testing program at SAU is completely optional and only students/staff with completed consent forms are tested. A consent form must be completed for each student/employee prior to testing in order to participate. Individuals can submit a completed consent form to join the program at any time. [SASS Consent Form](#)

The SASS program will resume on **Tuesday, September 6th** for Hampton Falls, Seabrook, and South Hampton. North Hampton and Winnacunnet High School will offer testing on Thursdays beginning on **September 8th**.

Please reach out to Mary Toomey, Assistant Superintendent, for additional information. mttoomey@sau21.org

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Serving the communities of:

Hampton Falls

North Hampton

Seabrook

South Hampton

Winnacunnet High School