

# ***Martha's Vineyard Public Schools***

*Excellence and Equity For All Children*

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SUPERINTENDENT

*Equal Opportunity Employer*

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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE  
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Dear Parents,

November 17, 2020

I would like to give you an update on where we are with COVID testing. We have been accepted into the Phase I Abbot BionaxNOW K-12 testing program sponsored by DESE and MA-DPH. These are the self-contained tests that will be located in the nurse's office of each school and can be used to test symptomatic staff and students. I don't know yet how many test kits we will receive. I am working with the Health and Safety Committee to complete the next step in this testing program.

As far as the regular asymptomatic testing of students and staff: I spoke with Mirimus today - the company that will be processing our COVID spit PCR surveillance tests. We plan to begin testing the first week of January (Jan 4-8). That is the soonest that Mirimus can take us on. We plan to overnight samples on Tuesdays on testing weeks and receive results on the following Thursday. Logistically, we will ask students and staff to self-administer the test at home and deliver the sample to a central location on a designated day and time. We will continue to work out the details of this plan. This plan mirrors what is being done in Wellesley, and we are communicating with them to learn from their experience. Union leadership has been working with the administration to develop an agreement for staff testing.

Here is the current situation in our schools:

<b>School</b>	<b># students in quarantine due to a positive test</b>	<b># students in quarantine due to being a close contact</b>	<b># staff in quarantine due to a positive test</b>	<b># staff in quarantine due to being a close contact</b>
MVRHS	3	4	1	10
Chilmark	0	0	0	0
Edgartown	3	9	0	5
Oak Bluffs	0	24	1	4
West Tisbury	0	0	0	0
Tisbury	1	5	0	1

This chart does not include individuals who have been released from quarantine after testing positive or being identified as a close contact.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Matthew D'Andrea, LP.D.