

Good Evening, Everyone,

I hope this email finds you well as we head into a much needed long weekend. Below are some updates and reminders. **Please pay special attention to the COVID testing information that is set to begin Wednesday, October 13th. This applies to all grade levels.**

COVID Positives October 8, 2021

Today we are reporting COVID Positives at AHS (3), AMS (2), and SWIS (1).

A Respectful Note about CIVILITY :)

I would be remiss this week if I did not take a moment to remind everyone about the importance of civility in communications with each other. I appreciate the frustrating nature of the COVID situation and adhering to guidance from the state. We can agree, disagree, and/or agree to disagree about the guidance, **but we did not write it.** We are, however, charged with applying it within each of our schools. I am hopeful that with test and stay options starting, much of the disruption with close contacts will diminish. But, COVID is still here and communication between schools and homes will continue. We cannot have screaming, swearing, insults, and protracted debates over the state's guidance. It is counterproductive. The volume of this behavior has steadily increased since August. Further, it is something I have never seen in my 25 years in education. I have instructed staff to end phone calls and communications that do not meet the level of appropriateness we should afford one another, and to resume when things can remain calm. Thank you for your continued patience and support.

COVID TESTING BEGINS IN SCHOOLS - Wednesday, October 13, 2021

Please see the information below, shared in an earlier email regarding the COVID Testing Program that is coming soon to the Auburn Public Schools. If you are interested in having your child participate, please follow the link to complete the consent form. **If we do not have parental consent to test, we will be forced to send unvaccinated close contacts home.** Below, again, is the information regarding this program with the link.

Symptomatic Testing

Under this program, we will be able to test staff, and students (with the consent of a parent or guardian) who may become symptomatic in school. Staff, and students with very mild symptoms and a negative COVID test, may be allowed to stay in school.

Test and Stay

In addition, staff, and students who may be deemed "close contacts" to a COVID positive person in school, can opt to be tested daily in school for at least five days. If the test is negative and there are no symptoms present, staff, and students will be allowed to stay in school.

Details

The testing that is being offered will not allow us to test students or staff who become symptomatic outside of school or become a close contact to someone who is COVID positive in a setting other than school. Please **do not** send your child to school if he or she is not feeling well.

Parent/Guardian Consent

In order to implement these programs, we must receive consent from parents or guardians in order for any child to be tested. If you would like your child to participate in the testing and monitoring that these programs will provide, please follow this [link to the consent form](#) and complete the form for your child(ren). If you do not complete the consent form or deny consent through the form, we will not include your child in any of the testing that will be offered.

If you provide consent, please note that you will be providing consent for Symptomatic Testing, Test and Stay and Routine COVID Safety Checks(formerly named Pooled Testing). **However, at this time, the Auburn Public Schools has only opted to offer the Symptomatic and Test and Stay options.**

If you are registering your child(ren), please select 'sign consent for a minor' and enter the requested information. If you have more than one child, please complete a form for each child.

Once into the consent portal, you have the option to select languages other than English for the translation of the consent form.

Please complete the consent form as soon as possible so that we can offer a robust response to students.

If you have questions, please reach out to Dr. Beth Chamberland, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, at bchamberland@auburn.k12.ma.us .

Continuation of Masking in the APS

As referred to in the Commissioner's most recent memorandum to all school districts in the Commonwealth, the masking order in all schools has been extended through at least November 1, 2021. As we approach November, we will continue to keep you apprised of the direction received from the state.

Reminder Regarding Masks

Related to the previous paragraph, please be reminded students are responsible for supplying their own masks. Schools have extras for students and visitors who forget them, but we appreciate your help providing a mask for your child.

Substitute Nurses

The Auburn Public Schools is looking for substitute School Nurses. If you are a Registered Nurse or know someone who is and are interesting in working in our school buildings, please contact either Leah Gauthier, Lead Nurse, at lgauthier@auburn.k12.ma.us or Beth Chamberland, Assistant Superintendent, at echamberland@auburn.k12.ma.us. Substitute RNs receive a daily rate of \$ 150 and you get to work with our amazing students and staff.

Substitute Teachers and Support Staff

The Auburn Public Schools is looking for substitute teachers and support staff. If interested, please come to 5 West Street to complete an employment application. Applications are reviewed and training is provided to qualified candidates. Applicants should have an Associate or Bachelor's degree. You are able to select the days you work to make it convenient for your schedule. You can also select the school or schools you would prefer to support. Substitutes for teachers are paid \$80-\$85 per day based on certification, Instructional Assistants are paid \$ 12/hour, ABA substitutes are paid \$ 12.30/hour and retired teachers who retain their certification are paid \$ 90 per day.

I wish you all a great weekend and thank you for your continued support of the Auburn Public Schools. If you have community information you would like shared through this update, please send information to Mrs. Mandy Williams at mwilliams@auburn.k12.ma.us by Wednesday afternoon for the current week's update.

Most Sincerely,

Casey

Casey J. Handfield, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools