



LEARNING PREP SCHOOL

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COVID summer policy

Updated 6-9-22

Due to an update regarding COVID protocols from DESE for summer programming, we are updating our policy as follows. Please keep in mind that we are following CDC, Mass DPH, and DESE guidelines closely to inform our internal decisions. We will update our policies as new information and guidelines come available.

Please note you must opt in and/or give consent again, specifically for the summer dates, for at home or symptomatic COVID testing using the form link in the testing section below.

Health Care

COVID related policy (subject to change based on DESE guidelines)

The novel coronavirus (“COVID-19”) is extremely contagious and believed to be spread from person-to-person contact, mainly through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. Spread is more likely when people are in close contact with one another. To prevent the spread, federal, state, and local governments, as well as federal and state health agencies, recommend several health and safety protective measures. Included in these measures are washing hands, maintaining distance between oneself and others, covering the mouth and nose with a mask or face covering when around others, covering coughing and sneezing, cleaning, and disinfecting surfaces frequently, and monitoring one’s health daily.

Learning Prep School has put in place preventative measures, new procedures, protocols, and policies; undergone trainings; and purchased necessary protective safety equipment to reduce the spread of COVID-19. However, due to the contagious nature of COVID-19, your child may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19 while attending Learning Prep School. As with any setting where individuals will be in contact with other individuals, the risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists. Though significant preventative measures are being taken, the contagious nature of this virus prevents elimination of risk of exposure. Learning Prep School will continue to follow local, state, and federal guidance to ensure safety and preventative measures are up to date and implemented as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Travel outside of Massachusetts.

Learning Prep School strictly follows Massachusetts travel guidelines and can be found [HERE](#)

The following guidelines follow all health and safety standards in the DESE guidance documents:

Before coming to school or getting on the bus.

Families should assess their child's state of wellness before leaving home for school. If the student has any symptoms of COVID-19, they should not attend school. The family should notify their building administrator that the child will be absent and the reason for the absence. The school nurse will follow-up with the family regarding the child's symptoms, whether the child was seen by a medical professional, and any testing that was done. The child can return to school once cleared by the school nurse.

It is important for our families to know that the symptoms of COVID-19 mimic the symptoms of many other illnesses. To protect all students and staff, any symptoms of COVID-19 will be treated as a suspected case until determined otherwise.

These symptoms include:

- Fever (100.0° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell
- Muscle aches or body aches
- Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
- Sore throat, when in combination with other symptoms
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea when in combination with other symptoms
- Headache when in combination with other symptoms
- Fatigue, when in combination with other symptoms
- Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies) when in combination with other symptoms

Students and staff **must** stay home if they do not feel well. This is very important in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Masks/face coverings.

Masking is recommended, but not mandatory for students and staff. Masks should be a cloth, surgical, KN95 or N95 covering for nose and mouth. KN95 or N95 are recommended. Bandanas, scarves, and other articles of clothing are not acceptable substitutes for cloth masks designed to cover the nose and mouth. Face shields cannot be used instead of a mask, though they can be worn in addition to masks.

These masks/face coverings are to be provided by the student/family, but extra disposable masks will be on campus as a backup.

Reusable masks/face coverings provided by families should be washed by families daily.

Attestations.

All staff and families must fill out a health attestation at the start of the summer program.

COVID-19 related isolation space.

There are 2 isolation rooms on either side of the nurse's office for students or staff who display COVID-19 symptoms. There is also a designated exit door in the area for symptomatic staff or students.

Throughout the following protocols, remember that when the guidance states that a student will isolate and get dismissed, that student will be monitored by the Learning Prep School nurse and will be in this dedicated isolation space.

Testing Program

At Learning Prep School, keeping your students safe and in school is our top priority. We are writing to let you know, in accordance with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Department of Public Health (DPH), our school is updating our COVID-19 Testing Program, effective during the summer program only, **July 11th through July 29th**. We are opting into an at-home testing program that will increase testing of our participating students and staff, regardless of vaccination status. In addition to this new at-home antigen test option, we will continue with symptomatic testing during the week with additional consent. As part of this program, we are not using Test and Stay protocols or doing 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 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 **July 11th** to opt-in. If you have questions, please contact Gretchen Petersen at gpetersen@learningprep.org or 617-965-0764 x1208

COVID-19 Testing Programs in our Schools:

- **At-Home Rapid Antigen Testing** during the summer program from July 11th - July 29th. Tests, in packs of 2, will be distributed on Thursdays, every 2 weeks, **beginning July 11th to be administered that afternoon and on Sundays before 4:00pm.**
- **Symptomatic Testing** will be administered for those who present with COVID symptoms during the summer program hours
- **The At-Home testing OPT-IN and symptomatic testing CONSENT**
 1. Please fill out the form for testing to begin.

[Covid at home and symptomatic testing FORM](#)

Overview: At-Home Rapid Testing Program

- **About the Test:** [iHealth](#) is a 15-minute at-home FDA-approved rapid antigen test
- **Opt-In:** To participate, you must opt in by completing the form above. By opting in, you will agree to review the training materials for test administration, report positive test results, and administer the tests according to LPS guidelines (Sundays before 4:00pm) and training links below. **If you do not opt in, you will not receive at home tests.**

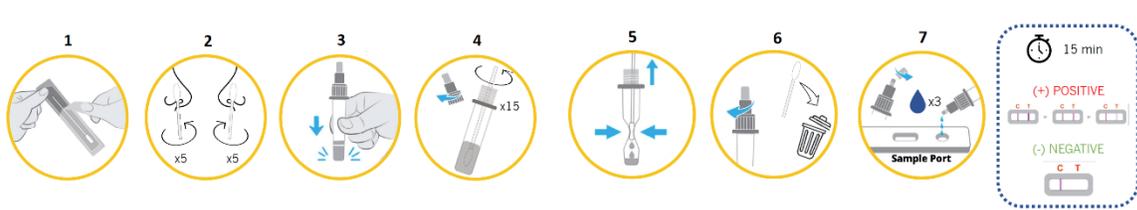
- **Weekly:** Every two weeks you will receive an iHealth at-home rapid test kit. Each kit contains two individual tests. You will administer one test each week on Sunday, before 4:00pm.
- **Reporting Positive Test Results:** If you test positive on an at-home antigen test, you will report the positive result to Gretchen Petersen at gpetersen@learningprep.org or 617-965-0764 x1208. LPS 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 your flexibility to do testing in the home for free.

Training - 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 by contacting Gretchen Petersen at gpetersen@learningprep.org or 617-965-0764 x1208
- **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.



DESE/DPH protocols for responding to COVID scenarios (subject to change)

Learning Prep School follows the most updated DESE/DPH guidance regarding close contacts and responding to COVID scenarios as outlined below.

Testing and quarantine response protocols

This section outlines testing and quarantine response protocols for individuals – students and staff – who test positive for COVID-19, and symptomatic individuals. Each scenario outlines the duration of any quarantine or isolation, the conditions to be met in order for the individual to return to school, and any additional considerations.

Overview of Protocol Categories:

- Protocol A: For individuals who test positive for COVID-19
- Protocol B: Protocol for symptomatic individuals

Protocol A for individuals who test positive

- Duration: Self-isolation for COVID-19 positive cases is a minimum of 5 days after symptom onset or after positive PCR or antigen test, if asymptomatic.
- Return to school: After 5 days and once they have:
 - o Been without fever for 24 hours (and without taking fever-reducing medications);and
 - o Experienced improvement in other symptoms; and
 - o Following the 5-day isolation period, individuals must mask for 5 additional days when around others, other than when eating, drinking, or outside.
- Note: Return to school should be based on time and symptom resolution. Even with a 5-day isolation period, repeat viral testing prior to return is not recommended.

Protocol B for symptomatic individuals:

Duration: Dependent on symptom resolution

- Return to School: Individuals may return to school after they:
 - o Have improvement in symptoms
 - o Have been without fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.
 - o It is also recommended that individuals receive a negative antigen test result for COVID-19. An antigen test may be self-administered and does not need to be proctored or performed by a healthcare professional. Note: So long as the individual is not a close contact, if a medical professional makes an alternative diagnosis for the COVID-19-like symptoms, the individual may use this recommendation (e.g., for influenza or strep pharyngitis) in lieu of an antigen test.