



# BPS COVID Health and Safety Update

November 9, 2021



# Overview of BPS COVID Testing

- The National Guard has stepped in to provide CIC the necessary time to bring on more staff and provide proper training.
  - We are grateful for their involvement. It has been a positive experience for our young students.
- BPS is participating in Test and Stay
  - Alternative to quarantine at home for identified close contacts in the school setting
  - Unvaccinated, asymptomatic students/staff only
  - We have saved a total of 235 school days that would have been missed due to quarantine at home
  - No positives have been identified through Test and Stay
  - All individuals are required to quarantine when not in school related activities - school is a controlled environment
- COVID Routine Safety checks have been performed weekly in the elementary schools since 10/18/21
  - CMS 6th grade included this week - take home nasal swab

# COVID Routine Safety Checks Elementary Update

		Butler	Winn Brook	Wellington	Burbank	CMS	BHS
	% consent	81.7 %	82.7 %	74.5 %	80.6 %	66.2 %	46.7 %
Week of 10/18/21	# ind tested/ # pools	197 / 23	334 / 41	277 / 30	248 /32	N/A	N/A
	# positive pools	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A
Week of 10/25/21	# ind tested/ # pools	272 / 28	346 / 36	369 / 38	270 / 28	N/A	N/A
	# positive pools	0	0	0	1	N/A	N/A
Week of 11/1/21	# ind tested/ # pools	281 / 29	357 / 36	401 / 41	287 / 29	170 Grade 5 only	N/A
	# positive pools	0	0	0	0	0	N/A

# Lessons Learned in First 3 weeks

- Thank you to the BPS staff who have made this possible -
- Test process at elementary schools
  - Double swabbing => lab deconvolution
  - Double swabbing creates a lot of unnecessary waste -
    - Additional process to identify individuals
    - Individual sample collected, not needed the majority of the time, increase waste
    - Not indicated in low positivity rate districts
    - This becomes a non issue if we transitioned to the take home nasal swab specimen collection
- Veritas is now offering a take home nasal swab along with the saliva option
  - Nasal swab was not an option when Belmont signed up for DESE/CIC program
  - 1 swab collection, easier than saliva
  - Take home sample collection, register at home, deliver to school on scheduled days
  - Deconvolution takes place in the lab
- Belmont has switched from the saliva take home for Middle and high school to the nasal swab -
  - Pilot the 5th grade - week of 11/1/21
  - Begin all grades at CMS - dependent on supplies
  - BHS by December 1, 2021
  - Plan to review this take home sample collection as an option for the entire district

# COVID Cases and Contact Tracing

- BPS school nurses continue to work with the Belmont Health department on contact tracing efforts
- Absentee trends are monitored closely to determine early if school transmission is taking place
- There have been 33 positive cases to date
  - 8 of those were on quarantine due to household exposure
  - 21% of positive cases were vaccinated
- There have been 356 in-school close contacts identified so far this school year
  - Average of 10 close contacts per case. All close contacts are notified of the exposure and the details of their plan is dependent on their vaccination status
- Test and Stay
  - Unvaccinated, asymptomatic 0-3 feet for >15 minutes
  - 235 days of school were saved for 52 individuals who participated in Test and Stay (as of 11/5/2021)

# Vaccination Rates

Grade	As of 9/13/2021	As of 10/29/2021
7	72.6%	80.3%
8	77.5%	84.5%
9	79.1%	89.9%
10	83.1%	87.8%
11	80.8%	84.3%
12	80.8%	84.3%

Vaccines are recommended for children ages 5 - 11. The Belmont Health Department has taken the lead on the scheduling vaccine clinics, which is dependent on the vaccine availability. We recommend checking with your pediatrician and local pharmacies. <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccinations-for-children-ages-5-11>