

**Nauset Regional School District
& Union 54
Back-to-School Blueprint**



August 23, 2021

Updated March 18, 2022

The Nauset Public Schools Reentry plan is subject to change depending on the COVID-19 State of Massachusetts metrics for our region and revised guidelines from the MA Department of Education.

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Letter from Superintendent Clenchy

Dear Nauset Community:

Thank you for your continued support as we continue the 2021-2022 school year.

We have learned a great deal over this past year as we collectively navigated the COVID pandemic. Our current guidance and procedures reflect the most updated recommendations from the CDC and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Keeping our students safe and in school remains our top priority.

As of March 18, 2022 Nauset will adhere to this Blueprint with some adjustments. These adjustments are made based on CDC, DPH, and DESE recommended changes. This blueprint continues to be aligned with guidelines set forth by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Throughout the year, we will continue to monitor current local and state-wide data while utilizing our new and evolving knowledge about disease control. According to the most updated DESE and DPH guidance, the keys to mitigating the spread of COVID-19 infection are the following:

- Minimum of 3 ft of social distancing indoors when possible
- Eligible individuals receive COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters
- NRSD will continue to support COVID-19 vaccination clinics
- Monitor for symptoms and stay home when sick
- Practice effective hand hygiene
- Ventilation
- Weekly, at-home testing
- Symptomatic testing in school

This Blueprint is provided as key information regarding how our schools will operate and will be adjusted as needed. All updates, as the school year progresses, will continue to be communicated via ParentSquare and will be posted on the Nauset District website.

Sincerely,

Brooke Clenchy

General Mitigation Strategies For Nauset Public Schools, A Layered Approach

- Maintain a minimum of 3 ft of social distancing indoors when possible
- Obtain COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters for eligible individuals
- Support COVID-19 vaccination clinics
- Monitor for symptoms and stay home when sick
- Maintaining good hand hygiene practices
- Maintain standards for ventilation: Our schools will keep windows open, as much as possible throughout the school year; to include bus transportation
- Participate in weekly, at-home testing (Voluntary participation)
- Perform symptomatic testing in school
- Engage in cleaning once a day to sufficiently remove potential viruses that may be on surfaces

Daily Self-Check

The symptom list below applies to all individuals, regardless of vaccination status:

COVID-19 symptoms list:

- Fever (100.0° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell
- Muscle 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

Individuals who experience symptoms on the list above should follow the testing and quarantine response protocols for symptomatic individuals which can be found here:

[DESE/DPH COVID-19 Response Protocols.](#)

Testing Protocols

The Nauset COVID-19 testing program has two components: Testing for students or staff who show symptoms of COVID-19 at school and voluntary at-home weekly antigen testing.

It is important to Nauset Public Schools that you are fully informed regarding the process. Parent/guardian consent will be required prior to any student participation in these potential testing programs.

Symptomatic testing is used when a student is showing symptoms of COVID-19 during school; students should not come to school if they are feeling sick while at home. Some symptoms of the virus look identical to other illnesses like the cold or flu, and this test tells us whether a symptomatic student has COVID-19 or not. This is a rapid test, and we receive the results of this test within 15 minutes. If a student has minimal symptoms and tests negative, they can remain in school. To consent to symptomatic testing click here:

[Consent for symptomatic testing](#)

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 [[Staff Online Form](#), [Student Online Form](#)]. By opting in, you will agree to review the training materials for test administration, report positive test results, and administer the tests according to Nauset's guidelines.
- **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 Thursday.
- **Reporting Positive Test Results:** If you test positive on an at-home antigen test, you will report the positive result to your school nurse. The district 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.

Masking

Nauset has always been and will continue to be a community that encourages diversity of thought and respects the choices of others. Every day there are thousands of people working and learning within our school's walls. Masking is a widely debated and at times emotional topic. As always, in our school environments, any behavior that is unkind, disrespectful, or intolerant of others' decisions will not be accepted. Those that engage in such behavior will be held to the codes of conduct in our buildings.

Any individual who wishes to continue to mask, including those who face higher risk from COVID-19, should be supported in that choice. DESE and DPH strongly recommend unvaccinated individuals should continue to wear masks in school settings.

Please keep in mind the following exemptions:

1. Masking is still required in all *school health offices*;
2. Students and staff returning from a 5-day quarantine or isolation period must follow face-covering use and conduct active monitoring for symptoms through day 10 of exposure (except when eating, drinking, or outdoors).
3. Staff and students may choose to mask for personal or health reasons.

If there is a spike in any one of our school communities from Wellfleet to Brewster, a decision can be made quickly to have that individual school return to mandated masking for a short period of time. Decisions to return to masking in an individual school will be based on the policy adopted on February 23, 2022.

Communication

Current cases of student and staff COVID-19 infections will be posted on the district home page. All pertinent information and notifications will be sent out via email and phone calls using ParentSquare. Interpretation and translation services are provided to our families both verbally and in writing.

Student Support Services

Schools are expected to provide full-time, in-person learning for students for the school year 2021-2022. IEP teams must document all services in IEPs.

Some students with disabilities may have health or medical conditions that will prevent them from returning to in-person learning during the school year. The Department's special education regulations provide that a Team Meeting must be held. The principal shall arrange for provision of educational services in the home or hospital. The principal shall coordinate such services with the Administrator of

Special Education for eligible students ([603 CMR 28.03\(3\)\(c\)](#)).

- The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) contemplates that IEP meetings may be held via telephone and/or video conference. Districts can continue to hold IEP Team meetings using these alternative means of meeting participation if the parent or guardian agrees to participate using these alternative means.
- Electronic or digital signature can be accepted to indicate parental consent for an initial evaluation, reevaluation, or the provision of special education and related services.
- Evaluation timelines still in effect if a student or staff are required to quarantine. Parents may agree in writing to an extending timelines in writing.

Preschool inclusionary ratios are expected to be implemented as outlined in [603 CMR 28.06\(7\)\(e\)\(2\)](#), in preschool inclusionary programs for children with disabilities, aged 3-5. Public preschool inclusionary class size shall not exceed 20 students with one teacher and one aide, and no more than 5 students with disabilities. If the number of children with disabilities is six or seven, then the class size may not exceed 15 with one teacher and one aide.

Section 504

Nauset School District will continue to implement and follow Section 504 plans for students. A Section 504 plan is the provision of equal access to the educational environment. Students with existing Section 504 plans are entitled to regular or special education, related aids, services, accommodations, and/or support that will allow for equal access to the provision of learning during in-person instruction or remote learning. Section 504 case managers will review students' existing Section 504 plans and, in collaboration with each student's teacher(s) and families, determine which listed accommodations or supports continue to be applicable.

Athletics

Nauset Regional School District is committed to the health and safety of our middle and high school athletes and coaches. We will adhere to all MIAA, State and District guidelines regarding a safe return to athletics. For updated guidance, please refer to the MIAA website.

DESE Resources

Isolation and quarantine guidance protocols are outlined in the following link:

[DESE/DPH COVID-19 Response Protocols](#)

[Updated COVID-19 Testing Program](#)

Appendix A

Dear STAFF MEMBER:

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 district is updating our COVID-19 Testing Program, effective 01/31/22. We are opting into an at-home testing program that will increase testing of our participating students and staff, regardless of vaccination status. For more information about this update to the statewide testing program, please [click here](#). The at-home testing option will begin during the week of 01/31/22. In addition to this new at-home antigen test option, we will continue with symptomatic testing. As part of this shift in the program, we are discontinuing Test and Stay and contact tracing for in-school close contacts. This means that if you are a potential contact **in school**, you may continue to come to school and do not have to quarantine. This new 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 01/24/22 to opt-in. If you have questions, please contact your supervisor.

COVID-19 Testing Programs in our Schools:

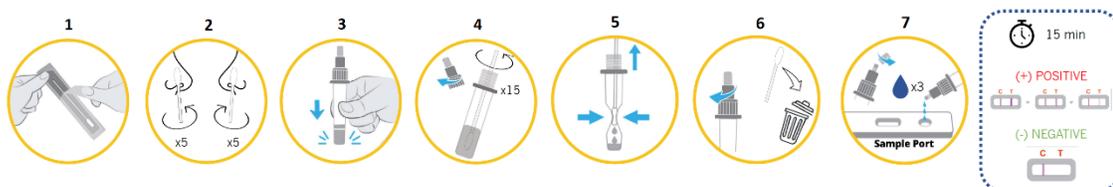
1. **At-Home Rapid Antigen Testing** on Thursday: ([NEW opt-in form](#))
2. **Symptomatic Testing** (If you have not yet signed up, [click here](#))

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 [\[online form\]](#). By opting in, you will agree to review the training materials for test administration, report positive test results, and administer the tests according to Nauset's guidelines.
- **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 Thursday.
- **Reporting Positive Test Results:** If you test positive on an at-home antigen test, you will report the positive result to your school nurse. The district 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.

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



Appendix B

- DATE: January 21, 2022
- TO: All NPS Families
- FROM: Mary Ellen Reed, District Nurse Leader

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 district is updating our COVID-19 Testing Program, effective January 31, 2022. We are opting into an at-home testing program that will increase testing of our participating students and staff, regardless of vaccination status. For more information about this update to the statewide testing program, please [click here](#). The at-home testing option will begin during the week of January 31, 2022. In addition to this new at-home antigen test option, we will continue with symptomatic testing. As part of this shift in the program, we are discontinuing Test and Stay and contact tracing for in-school close contacts. This means that if your child has a potential contact **in school**, they may continue to come to school and do not have to quarantine. This new 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 January 24, 2022 to opt-in. If you have questions, please contact your supervisor or principal.

COVID-19 Testing Programs in our Schools:

1. **At-Home Rapid Antigen Testing** on Thursday: (*NEW: [staff opt-in form](#); [student opt-in form](#)*)
2. **Symptomatic Testing** (*If you have not yet signed up, [click here](#)*)

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 [\[online form\]](#). By opting in, you will agree to review the training materials for test administration, report positive test results, and administer the tests according to Nauset's guidelines.
- **Weekly:** Every two weeks your child will receive an iHealth at-home rapid test kit. Each kit contains two individual tests. You will administer one test each week on Thursday.
- **Reporting Positive Test Results:** If your child tests positive on an at-home antigen test, you will report the positive result to your school nurse. The district 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.
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