

Lincoln Public Schools COVID-19 Response Update

Presented to School Committee 1/27/2022



COVID Trends

Week of	Weekly DESE Case Report (Thu-Wed)	Positive Pools	Avg Daily Absences
1/3	130	32	196
1/10	64	21	172
1/17	41	18	84
1/24 <i>(through Thu)</i>	29	6	54

Testing Program Changes

Original Program	New Program
<p>Weekly in-school PCR pool test:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 test per week• Results in 2-3 days	<p>Weekly in-school PCR pool test:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 PCR test per week• Results in 2-3 days <p><i>AND</i></p> <p>Weekly at-home rapid antigen test:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 at-home rapid antigen test per week• Rapid results in 15 minutes
Symptomatic testing	Symptomatic testing
In-school contact tracing and test-and-stay program	<p>PK-5 families will be notified when a positive case occurs in their child's classroom</p> <p>6-8 families will be notified when a positive case occurs in the grade level</p>

Weekly At-Home Rapid Antigen Tests

- Weekly routine COVID safety check every Monday morning before school
- Families receive two tests every two weeks
- Results provided within 15 minutes
- Students who test positive stay home, and family contacts school nurse and their healthcare provider

Weekly At-Home Rapid Antigen Tests

Benefits:

- Significant expansion in how many tests will be performed each week.
- Positive tests will be found before students come to school.
- Greater opportunity to limit exposure when a positive is found (compared to the weekly PCR pool tests)
- Combination of weekly rapid antigen and PCR pool testing gives us one test with a quicker response and one test with greater sensitivity
- Fewer disruptions in the classroom
- Preserves nurse, administrator, and teacher capacity

Trade-offs:

- DESE/DPH provides the At-Home tests contingent on districts winding down Test and Stay and close contact tracing

Timeline

Tomorrow, 1/28 3pm: Deadline for families to opt-in for Weeks 1 and 2 (<https://www.lincnet.org/hometests>)

Tomorrow, 1/28 5pm: LPS places order with DESE

Wednesday, 2/1: At-Home testing resources sent to families electronically

Friday, 2/4: At-Home tests sent home with students

Monday, 2/7: First day of testing

Instructions, Videos, Opt-in Form, and More:
<https://www.lincnet.org/hometests>

Exposure Notifications

Beginning Week of 2/7:

- Shifting from close contact notifications to potential exposure notification
- PK-5: Families will be notified when an individual (staff or student) tests positive for COVID-19 in the classroom
- 6-8: Families will be notified when an individual (staff or student) tests positive within the grade level
- Extracurricular activities: Families will be notified when exposure occurs within the activity

Additional change to pooled testing notifications:

- Notifications will be sent when all pool results are received, even if reflex testing is still pending

LPS Enhanced At-Home Testing

Additional tests purchased by the Town of Lincoln with ARPA funds

Priorities for distribution:

1. Families who are otherwise not able to access tests
2. Students and staff with household exposure
3. Weekly testing for substitutes and outside enrichment/extracurricular providers
4. Nurse's medical discretion

Communication will expand on this next week.