

Elizabeth McGonagle
Executive Director



Susan Donelan
Dir. of Student Services

Dan Shovak
Dir. of Finance & Operations

141 Mansion Drive, Suite 200
East Walpole, MA 02032
Phone: 781-352-5700

Dr. Jean Kenney
Dir. of Professional Learning
& Leadership

Date: January 1, 2022
To: TEC Parents, Guardians and Caretakers
From: Liz McGonagle
Re: Update on returning to school

Happy New Year! We are looking forward to welcoming your child back to school after the winter break.

TEC will continue to make the health and safety of our students and staff our priority in 2022. This weekend, TEC staff members received COVID-19 test kits provided by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and will be able to take a COVID antigen test before returning to their classrooms on Monday morning. We will continue to implement all of our previous COVID-19 mitigation measures including masking, sanitizing, and limiting visitors to our schools and classrooms.

What can you do to help keep our learning community safe as we head into this next phase of COVID-19?

- **Keep your child home if they have any COVID-19 symptoms** including a fever of 100.0° or higher, chills, new loss of taste or smell, muscle or body aches and in combination with other symptoms a cough, sore throat, nausea, headache, fatigue or nasal congestion or runny nose.
- If able to **wear a mask**, please send your child to school with a mask that fits snugly over the mouth and nose. TEC can supply your child with a mask if needed.
- **Vaccination and the booster shot** is the single greatest protection against this virus and will help us to stop the spread. If your child is not vaccinated and is eligible, please do it.

Electronic Consent for COVID Testing at School

As you know, TEC is participating in the **Test and Stay Program** developed by DESE and DPH. **Electronic consent** is required in order for your child to participate. If you have not already done so, please follow the steps below to provide your consent to participate in this important COVID-19 mitigation program.

How to provide Electronic consent for COVID Symptomatic Testing and the "Test and Stay" protocol.

Go to the [CIC Health consent portal](https://www.cic-health.com/consent/ma) to provide your consent:
<https://www.cic-health.com/consent/ma>

Click on the **Consent Now** button and follow the prompts to provide your consent.

Step 1. Type in: The Education Cooperative (TEC)

Step 2. Type: The Education Cooperative (it may auto fill)

Step 3. Families select: **Sign Consent Form for a Minor** and complete the form.

Updated Testing and Quarantining Protocols

As a reminder, TEC will follow the testing and quarantining protocols updated by the [MA DPH and DESE on December 30, 2021](#). Here is a quick overview:

- Close contacts **who are fully vaccinated and have no symptoms of COVID-19** are exempt from the testing and quarantining requirements as long as they remain asymptomatic.
- **Classroom close contacts** exposed while both individuals were masked and at least 3 feet apart, are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols.
- **Unvaccinated close contacts** will have the option of staying in school if they are asymptomatic and participate in the ["test and stay" protocol](#) established by DESE and DPH, which allows asymptomatic close contacts to remain in school as long as they continue to wear a mask and engage **daily rapid testing** performed by TEC's nurse, and receive a negative result, every day, for 5 consecutive days and actively monitor for symptoms for 10 days following initial exposure.
- **Unvaccinated students** who choose not to participate in the "test and stay" protocol will be subject to the traditional quarantining requirement including a quarantine of 10 days and a negative COVID test on day 5 or later before returning to school.
- **Individuals who test positive** must isolate for a minimum of 5 days and may return to school based on time and symptom resolution once they have been without a fever for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication and have improvement in other symptoms. Upon return to school you must wear a mask (if possible) for 5 additional days.

You can find additional information at our [COVID-19 Resources page](#) on the TEC website.

Thank you for your help in keeping our students and staff safe as we welcome in 2022!

Best wishes to you and your family for a very happy, healthy new year!

