



**DRACUT PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
2063 Lakeview Avenue  
Dracut, Massachusetts 01826  
Phone: (978) 957-2660 Fax: (978) 957-2682  
[www.dracutps.org](http://www.dracutps.org)

*Steven Stone*  
*Superintendent of Schools*

February 26, 2021

**Re: Pool Testing & Update on a Return to Full In-Person Learning**

Dear Parents/Guardians:

**POOL TESTING:** The district has formally decided to participate in the state-wide pool testing program sponsored by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). This program is open to all students attending one of our schools as part of our hybrid learning model, as well as school staff working in our schools. We have been working for some weeks in anticipation of a final decision. I have created a [pool testing slide presentation](#) on pool testing to provide you with background information and context.

We have targeted Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> as our start date. **This is a voluntary and free program.** In order to have your child participate, you must provide consent. Principals will be sending out a message to families of hybrid learning students to assist them in accessing the consent form. Please note that that in order to participate in the start of the program, parents/guardians must complete the consent form **no later than 4PM, Tuesday, March 2, 2021.**

**CHANGES TO IN-PERSON LEARNING:** As you have no doubt read and/or heard, Governor Baker and DESE Commissioner Riley have announced an expectation that school begin the process of returning to full in-person learning beginning in April. Please know that we seek a return to “normal” as quickly as possible. As we have done through the almost yearlong COVID health emergency, we will thoughtfully approach changes in learning consistent with the expectations of DESE and the Department of Public Health.

Current guidance will make it very difficult to do as has been expressed by the Governor and Commissioner. Specifically, the existing physical distancing requirements would likely preclude the return of all hybrid students at one time. In order to address the altering landscape, we are standing up the teams of administrators and staff that worked last spring and summer to establish our learning models. I will be reporting on our progress in the coming weeks, and will provide as much advance notice as possible to any changes in our learning models.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions about the pool testing program after reviewing the [pool testing slide presentation](#), please feel free to contact a building principal. If you have any questions about the district’s approach to the ongoing health emergency, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Steven Stone  
Superintendent of Schools