

Dear Parents, Guardians, Students and Staff:

This fall we are able to offer two excellent opportunities to keep your students safe and in school.

1. A vaccination clinic: dose one on September 15 & dose two on October 6. Parental consent and pre-registration appear below.
2. COVID safety checks: weekly pooled testing and individual tests for students who are close contacts or who experience symptoms after coming to school.

Students who are close contacts without symptoms will not need to be quarantined if they are vaccinated or if unvaccinated and participating in daily testing for one week.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Slotnick  
Principal

**\*UPDATED:**

**[Covid Vaccination \(Pfizer\) Host Site at NVTHS](#)**

We hope many of you who have not received the COVID vaccine, can take advantage of our free Pfizer Vaccination Clinics here at Nashoba Tech. It is important to register using this Registration link [Covid-19 Vaccination Registration](#) so we know which students to find during the clinic hours.

\*Additionally, if your child under age 18 will be vaccinated at the clinic, you must complete the vaccination consent form which is attached.

*This is a clinic for first time vaccination, not for Boosters.* The clinic is for students and staff at Nashoba Tech only and takes place on the following dates as noted:

Dose 1 - Wednesday, September 15, 2021 (1:00pm - 3:00pm)

Dose 2 - Wednesday, October 6, 2021 (1:00pm - 3:00pm)

As a School Community, we are committed to keeping students in school to every extent possible while still navigating the Covid-19 pandemic and its variants. Being vaccinated allows students and staff to stay in school, even if they have been in close contact with a positive case. If unvaccinated, quarantine will be required, thus missing significant school learning and activities.

**[See attached flow chart](#)**

## **Test and Stay** *(for unvaccinated students and staff)*

Unvaccinated students and staff are eligible for the **Test and Stay protocol** as follows:

- “Test and Stay” (only for **In-school** close contacts): Shallow nasal swab samples are collected at school using the BinaxNOW rapid antigen test. Tests are administered daily in school from the first day of exposure for seven days.
- The Test and Stay program is a testing initiative intended for unvaccinated, asymptomatic close contacts of individuals with confirmed COVID-19. This testing program will allow asymptomatic close contacts to remain in school if they receive an individual rapid antigen test (e.g. BinaxNOW) each school day and test negative, as well as follow other recommended guidelines as noted later in this document

**\*In Summary:** In order to stay in school, upon being a close contact, you either have to have proof of vaccination on file in the school nurse's office, or have a consent to test form in place. Otherwise you will need to remain home in quarantine protocol.

## **Covid Pool Testing and Consent:**

Pooled testing involves mixing several individuals' test samples together into one “pool” and then testing the pooled sample for COVID-19. This approach increases the number of individuals that can be tested at one time and allows us to regularly test our school community for COVID-19.

The pooled tests will be performed once per week (with consent) with a shallow nasal swab for all participating students and staff members. Participants will swab themselves. Nashoba Tech will receive the pool results within 24-48 hours. If the result of the pool is negative, then all individuals are presumed to not have COVID-19. If the results of the pool are positive, then all individuals in that specific pool will be retested individually.

Because pooled testing does not give individual results, you will only be notified if your child requires follow-up testing. Nashoba Tech will be providing the [Abbott BinaxNOW Rapid Antigen Diagnostic Tests](#) for any necessary follow-up individual testing. Students or staff in a positive pool will be tested as soon as possible and receive individual results in 15 minutes.

Our Nashoba Tech Nursing staff has been thoroughly trained on how to administer pooled testing, as well as the Abbott BinaxNOW Rapid Antigen Diagnostic Tests. If it is determined that a student will need follow-up individual testing, because of being in a positive pool test, Nashoba Tech will call the parent/guardian of each of those students and Nashoba Tech will also notify you of the individual follow-up test results and if your child is positive or negative and what to do in each scenario.

To give permission for your student to participate in the COVID-19 Pooled Testing Program at Nashoba Tech, including consent to

- transmit student information via the pooled testing technology platform
- consent for any necessary follow up tests, and

- consent to share the test result information with the Department of Public Health and Project Beacon, a third party [non-profit] organization contracted to compile consent for testing and to share test results)

**Please Fill out the [Covid-19 Testing Consent](#) form by clicking on this link: [here](#).**

A paper permission form may be requested if you cannot access the online site.

At Nashoba Tech, we are extremely grateful to our committed staff and families that continue to show great flexibility and resilience as we navigate through Covid-19. It takes all of us working together to contain the spread of this virus and Nashoba Tech is excited to offer pooled testing as another mitigation strategy for our school community.

If you have questions regarding the COVID-19 Pooled Testing Program please reach out to the Principals' office or our School Nurses Office.

Thank you,