



COVID-19 Testing Update:

Spring, Summer, Fall 2022
Updates and Guidance for
Schools, Childcare and Children's
Recreational Camps/Programs

May 25, 2022

Resources for Responding to National Tragedies

1. [Talking to Children about Violence: Tips for Parents and Teachers](#) (NASP)
2. [Managing Your Stress in the Aftermath of a Shooting](#) (APA)
3. [National Parent Helpline](#)
4. [How to Talk to Kids About School Shootings](#) (Common Sense Media)

Today's Presentation

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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01

COVID Testing Data

K-12 Testing	Last week (5/9 - 5/15)	Program total (8/30/21 - 5/15/22)
Schools testing		
# schools providing at least one testing mode (symptomatic, test and stay, routine pooled testing, and/or at-home testing)	1,828	2,311
Test and Stay		
# test and stay tests conducted ^{2,3}	6,737	721,830
# in-person school days saved through test and stay (# negative tests) ⁴	6,572	708,462
Routine pooled tests		
Average swabs per pool	4.37	5.00
# pools processed	35,805	1,007,454
# positive pooled results	2,036	38,713
# negative pooled results	33,769	968,741
Pool positivity rate	5.69%	3.84%
Avg. turnaround time (hrs)	15.7	13.6



02

Changes to K-12 COVID-19 Testing Program

Remainder of SY2021-2022

- For the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year, the statewide K-12 COVID testing program will remain in place as it currently exists.



Remainder of SY2021-2022 continued

- Self-tests may be made available for the school community more widely, in accordance with the state's general [self-test guidance](#).
- Districts and schools can choose to make self-tests available prior to in-person, school-sponsored events, but students and school community members cannot be required to test as a condition of attendance.
- Districts and schools should continue to request that participants opt-in to self-tests in order to receive them.

- **The end of the current school year (SY2021-2022) will mark the end of the state-run, state-coordinated K-12 testing program.**

Summer 2022

- We will continue to provide self-tests for symptomatic testing for **school-based** summer programs (e.g., summer school, acceleration academies, ESY)
 - Please note, these tests are not for summer camp use. Summer camps should be directed to DPH.
- Staffing, software and other services provided through CIC Health **will no longer be available.**
- Districts and schools will need to provide staffing for in-school symptomatic testing for school-based summer programs.



Summer 2022

- Districts and schools will have access to view past consents and results in their testing portal.
- Districts and schools should obtain a new consent for summer and fall 2022 symptomatic testing.

Ordering self-tests for summer 2022—Schools and districts already participating in self-test option

- Districts and schools operating **school-based** summer programs (e.g., summer school, acceleration academies, ESY), should place an order for self-tests via the CIC supply hub.
- To order self-tests for school-based summer programs, districts and schools must update the total number of required summer tests in the [CIC supply hub](#) by Wednesday, June 1, 2022.
 - CIC will distribute a one-time allocation for summer use, alongside the normal at-home opt-ins, during the week of June 6.



Self-test ordering and distribution calendar – June 2022

Summary of shipping schedule through week of 6/26							
Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat	
	No Deliveries All received previous week		Deadline for student & staff qty. changes				
1	2	3	4	5	6		
	Student & Staff Deliveries	→					
8	9	10	11	12	13		
	No Deliveries All received previous week		Deadline for student & staff qty. changes				
15	16	17	18	19	20		
	Student & Staff Deliveries	→					
22	23	24	25	26	27		
	No Deliveries All received previous week		Deadline to order for school-based summer programs				
29	30	31	1	2	3		
	Student & Staff Deliveries	→					
5	6	7	8	9	10		
	No Deliveries All received previous week		Deadline for student & staff qty. changes				
12	13	14	15	16	17		
	Student & Staff Deliveries	→					
19	20	21	22	23	24		
	No Deliveries All received previous week						
26	27	28	29	30			
					May	June	

Important Points

- Please include the total number of self-tests you expect to use during your summer program (if applicable) in your order on June 1.
 - Please add this number to your regular order for that two-week period (summer order + regular order)
- If you are ordering self-tests on June 15, you will need to manually enter the number of tests you are ordering.
 - We will not carry over your order number from June 1.



Ordering self-tests for summer 2022—Schools and districts NOT participating in self-test option

- The limited number of schools and districts **not** participating in the statewide self-test option should email k12covid19testing@mass.gov to request self-tests for school-based summer programs.



Fall 2022

- The state will **no longer** supply self-tests to schools beginning in Fall 2022.
- For SY2022-2023, schools and districts interested in implementing their own testing program are encouraged to limit that program to symptomatic rapid testing only.
- Schools and districts may purchase self-tests through the [statewide contract](#) for self-tests.



To Review

	Spring 2022	Summer 2022	Fall 2022
Surveillance (both pooled and self-tests) & Test and Stay testing	Current program continues	No state program support	No state program support
Symptomatic testing	Current program continues	Schools will have access to state-provided self-tests for school-based summer programs	Schools can purchase self-tests through statewide contact
CIC Health Support (including managing consent forms)	Current program continues	CIC Health services no longer available through the state	CIC Health services no longer available through the state

REMINDER: Updating Participating Student and Staff Numbers

- Navigate to the [CIC Health Supply Form](#) for your school in CIC Health's School and Consent Database
 - If you do not have access to the supply form, please email support@cic-health.com to request access
- Select the "At Home Antigen Test" button
- A popup will appear. Select "Add/Update Opt-In Numbers"
 - Complete all fields: District, Full Name, Staff Opted-In, Students Opted-In
 - Click Submit
 - You will not receive a confirmation email. Shipments occur automatically based on the numbers submitted.
- Please note, you may also update the centralized shipping location in this area



Extended expiration dates on antigen tests

- Extended expiration dates on BinaxNOW and iHealth tests are posted on the [K-12 Testing Program section](#) of the DESE website.
- BinaxNOW tests that are expired may be disposed in **regular trash**.
- We are working with CIC Health to send schools stickers to put on test kits to make it clear that expiration dates have been extended and that there are treatment options if individuals test positive.

Program Closeout

- Program coordinators will work with district leads to complete Offboarding Checklist (e.g., steps to take with any remaining supplies and equipment, etc.).
- CIC Health will soon provide you with Impact Reports to highlight program participation.
- Testing software functionality deactivated as of June 30 but accounts in Crush the Curve will stay active to retrieve information as needed through the summer.

Recognizing Testing Staff

- Encouragement to recognize and thank testing staff as appropriate
- Ideas
 - Including testing staff in end-of-year recognition events/activities
 - Creative ways for students to thank the testing staff
 - Certificates of appreciation



03

Quarantine & Isolation Guidance for Schools, Childcare and Children's Recreational Camps/Programs

Information may be access [here](#)

A Few General “Rules of Thumb”

- A rapid antigen test, such as a self-test, is preferred to a PCR test in most situations for the purposes of exiting isolation or quarantine.
- To count days for quarantine and isolation, Day 0 is the date of exposure for close contacts, and for positive cases is the first day of symptoms OR the day the day positive test was taken, whichever is earlier.
- Masking is not required in while the individual is eating, drinking, sleeping, or outside.



FOR STUDENTS: Asymptomatic Close Contacts

- Quarantine for asymptomatic exposed students, regardless of where the exposure occurred, is no longer required for schools. Students who are identified as close contacts may continue to attend programming as long as they remain asymptomatic.
 - Those who can mask should do so until Day 10. A test on Days 2 and 5 is recommended, but not required.
- Schools and programs that wish to continue serial antigen testing (Test & Stay) may do so for the remainder of this school year.
- Schools are not required to conduct contact tracing as a standard practice but must work with their Local Board of Health in the case of outbreaks.

FOR STUDENTS: Isolation

- Students who test positive must isolate for at least 5 days. If they are asymptomatic or symptoms are resolving and they have been fever-free for 24 hours, they may return to programming after Day 5, provided:
 - If the student is able to mask, they must do so through Day 10.
 - If the student is unable to mask, they must have a negative test on Day 5 or later in order to return to programming prior to day 11.

FOR STUDENTS: Symptomatic Individuals

- Symptomatic students can remain in their school or program if they are tested immediately onsite, and that test is negative. Best practice would also include wearing a mask, if possible, until symptoms are fully resolved.
- If the symptomatic student cannot be tested immediately, they should be sent home and allowed to return to their program or school if they test negative, or they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and their symptoms have resolved, or if a medical professional makes an alternative diagnosis. A negative test is strongly recommended for return if the latter two conditions are met.

FOR STAFF: Protocols

- At this time, staff in K-12 schools should follow the [Protocols for Responding to K-12 Scenarios](#).



COVID-19 Symptoms for Schools, Childcare, and Children's Recreational Camps/Programs

- **Fever (100.0° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills**
- **Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath**
- **New loss of taste or smell**
- **Muscle aches or body aches**
- **Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)**
- **Sore throat, *when in combination with other symptoms***
- **Nausea, vomiting, *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***



04

Family-friendly Vaccine Clinics: Opportunities to Support Students and their Families

Introduction

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Mass Department of Public Health's Vaccine Equity Initiative (VEI)

- Pediatric (5-11 years old) vaccination rates in VEI communities
- April School Vacation clinic overview and results
- Spotlight on Brockton School Clinics
- Opportunities for schools to support pediatric vaccination through family-friendly clinics



Pediatric (5-11 years old) Vaccination Rates in VEI Communities

Community	First Dose Rate	MA Avg. VEI Avg.	Fully Vaccinated Rate	8-Week Fully Vaccinated Percent Change (Statewide = 4.7%)	New Full Vaccinations (3/22/2022 to 5/10/2022)	Estimated Number of Unvaccinated / Unreported
Framingham	69.6%	55.6%	56.6%	7.5%	44	2,313
Chelsea	68.2%		48.3%	14.5%	40	1,624
Malden	52.3%		44.2%	5.5%	22	2,666
Boston	52.0%		43.4%	7.5%	246	23,752
Revere	53.2%		42.4%	9.1%	26	2,456
Leominster	48.2%		38.9%	5.0%	11	1,835
Lynn	47.5%		38.1%	13.6%	80	5,709
Randolph	42.2%		36.9%	8.3%	12	1,591
Everett	50.0%		36.5%	11.2%	36	2,631
Lowell	42.9%		35.4%	5.8%	23	6,315
Lawrence	43.4%		34.0%	9.4%	56	5,874
Holyoke	39.3%		32.8%	11.3%	23	2,452
Haverhill	37.6%		32.5%	7.4%	25	3,482
Worcester	44.3%		31.9%	13.0%	127	11,026
Methuen	34.7%		30.4%	5.4%	17	3,124
Fitchburg	36.2%		29.8%	7.0%	16	2,450
Springfield	32.4%		24.7%	13.3%	80	11,707
Brockton	35.1%		22.9%	14.5%	44	7,215
New Bedford	26.6%		21.1%	13.7%	49	6,851
Fall River	26.1%	44.1%	19.6%	13.6%	25	5,518

Data Note
For the unvaccinated / unreported numbers, the darker gray represents individuals without a single dose and the lighter gray represents individuals without a full vaccination series.



Data from 5/11/2022

Family-Friendly April School Vacation Clinics

April school vacation week clinics were hosted by VEI at **family-friendly businesses** across the state and featured a variety of **fun incentives** and giveaways that **appealed to kids and families**. In total, **1,068 people were vaccinated at 43 clinics** across **11 communities**.

Those who got vaccinated at the April school vacation week clinics received giveaways like:

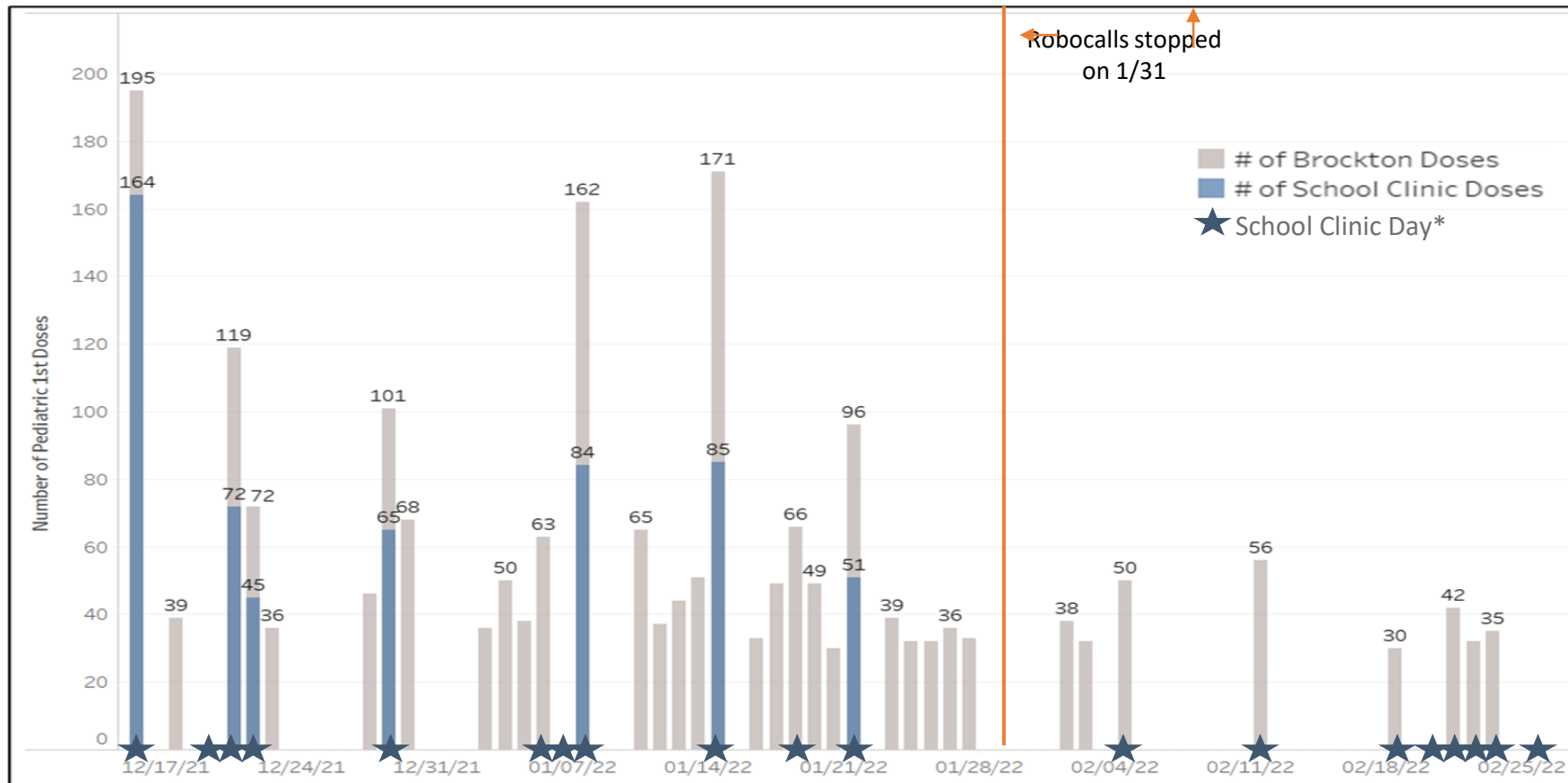
- 1 hour of free bouncing, skating, game play, or bowling
- Free park or zoo admission for a child and companion
- Free meal, snack, or ice cream
- Gift cards to grocery stores or local restaurants



At the Six Flags clinic, those who got vaccinated received **2 free entry passes, free parking, and a free meal**, valid through August 30.

Daily 1st Dose Vaccines to Pediatric Populations within Brockton

Day of School Clinic	12/16	12/21	12/22	12/29	1/8	1/15	1/22	2/5	2/12	2/19
% of Brockton 1 st Doses	84%	61%	63%	64%	52%	50%	53%	<30 daily doses*		



The school & school-related clinics were responsible for:

- A majority of Brockton's *daily* 1st doses to pediatric populations on days the clinics occurred
- 24% of all 1st doses to pediatric populations during this time

Robocalls advertising the school clinics halted at the end of January, presumably leading to a decline in vaccination rates

*Please note: days or clinics with less than 30 doses have been suppressed.

Opportunities to Support Family-Friendly Vaccine Clinics

Recommended Options for Schools:



Host vaccine clinic(s) before the end of the school year, during the summer, and/or as a back-to-school event

- Important for new pediatric boosters

How DPH Vaccine Equity Initiative can Help:

Coordinate every detail of the clinic

- Scheduling clinicians
- Providing supplies and incentives
- Providing outreach materials

Children ages 5-11 are now eligible for a COVID-19 booster.

- 🔒 This age group can get only the **Pfizer vaccine**
- 🔒 Booster eligibility for ages 5-11 begins **5 months** after the first shot
- 🔒 Now everyone age 5+ can get a booster

Visit mass.gov/COVIDvaccinekids

Opportunities to Support Family-Friendly Vaccine Clinics

Recommended Options for Schools:



Communicate about family-friendly clinics—many planned for spring and summer

- Send community clinic information home with students via **flyers**
- Send **robocalls and texts** to families with community clinic information
- Share community clinic information via **school/district email, social media, website**, etc.

How DPH Vaccine Equity Initiative can help:

Facilitate promotion of family-friendly clinics

- Design, print and deliver **flyers**
- Write **robocalls and texts** to families in relevant languages for your school
- Draft the content for your **school/district email, social media, website**, etc.

Opportunities to Support Family-Friendly Vaccine Clinics

Recommended Options for Schools:



Provide an opportunity for parents to opt-in to receiving help booking a vaccine appointment for their children/family

How DPH Vaccine Equity Initiative can Help:

Create communication tool to help families request support

Contact us

- COVID-19 Communications Resources on Mass.gov
 - <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccine-equity-initiative-communications-materials>
- Clinic request form
 - <https://survey.jsi.com/s3/MA-Mobile-Vaccination-Clinic-Request-Form>
- Samantha Joseph
 - samantha.h.joseph@mass.gov



THANK YOU!

We are tremendously grateful for your diligence and resourcefulness over the last two years, including using our testing program as one of many important mitigation strategies to maintain in-person learning for our students.

