

News



Nurse

October 2022



Please keep your child home if they are sick. Children should remain home for 24 hours after vomiting, diarrhea, or a fever (without using medicine to keep the fever down). Strep throat and pink eye will also need to be treated for at least 24 hours before returning to school. Please call the school nurse if you are unsure about when your child should stay home.

Please be aware that we do not carry or have the authorization to administer cold or cough medicine in school. If your child has a cough or cold (without a fever) and needs medication to alleviate symptoms, it will need to be given at home before school. Please do not send any medication to school. Students are allowed to bring cough drops for their own use.



CALLING ALL NURSES!

The district needs substitute school nurses that can cover field trips and/or work in the office.

Please visit the Ware Public Schools website, www.wareps.org, and click on Employment Opportunities to apply.

Feel free to contact Lead School Nurse, Jennifer Knight, if you have any questions.



Masks are required when visiting the nurse's office.

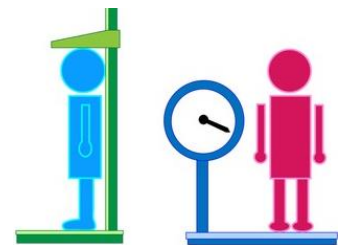


The nurse's office has clothing for students to borrow in the event of an accident. Please return the clothing that is loaned to your child. We have clothing donated and it depletes quickly when it is not returned. The purpose of having extra clothing is so students are not missing time on learning waiting for a parent to bring clothes and parents are not having to drive clothes to the school. If you are cleaning out your closet and are looking to donate any pants to the nurse's offices, it would be greatly appreciated.



Vision and hearing screenings have started at SMK. Parents will be notified if there is a need for further evaluation. If you DO NOT want your child to participate, please contact Nurse Jen.

WMS will be measuring heights and weights the week of October 3rd. Please send in a note or call Nurse Monique if you DO NOT want your child to participate.



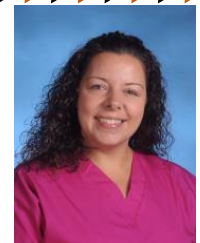
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Updated Guidelines for COVID Response

- If a student is sent to the nurse's office with potential signs and symptoms of COVID, we can do a rapid test if the parent/guardian has given consent. *The consent is included on the health forms for this year.*
- Rapid tests are the only tests that are being done this year. *There will be no more pooled testing or home tests sent home.*
- There is no more contact tracing unless we have been given alternate guidance by the local health department due to an outbreak. Please contact your child's school nurse if you have any questions or need further clarification.

OVERVIEW

Effective August 15, 2022, children and staff in childcare, K-12, out-of-school time (OST) and recreational camp settings should follow the below guidance.

- A [rapid antigen test](#), such as a self-test, is preferred to a PCR test in most situations.
- To count days for isolation, Day 0 is the first day of symptoms OR the day the day positive test was taken, whichever is earlier.
- Contact tracing is no longer recommended or required in these settings, but schools or programs must continue to work with their Local Board of Health in the case of outbreaks.
- The Commonwealth is not recommending universal mask requirements, surveillance testing of asymptomatic individuals, contact tracing, or test-to-stay testing in schools. While masks are not required or recommended in these settings except for in school health offices, any individual who wishes to continue to mask, including those who face higher risk from COVID-19, should be supported in that choice. For those who need or choose to mask, masking is never required in these settings while the individual is eating, drinking, sleeping or outside.
- All individuals are encouraged to stay up-to-date with vaccination as vaccines remain the best way to help protect yourself and others.

ISOLATION AND EXPOSURE GUIDANCE AND PROTOCOLS

Guidance for Children and Staff in Child Care, K-12, OST, and Recreational Camp Settings:

- Quarantine is no longer required nor recommended for children or staff in these settings, regardless of vaccination status or where the exposure occurred. All exposed individuals may continue to attend programming as long as they remain asymptomatic. Those who can mask should do so until Day 10, and it is recommended that they test on Day 6 of exposure. If symptoms develop, follow the guidance for symptomatic individuals, below.
- Children and staff who test positive must isolate for at least 5 days. If they are asymptomatic or symptoms are resolving and they have been fever free without the use of fever-reducing medicine for 24 hours, they may return to programming after Day 5 and should wear a high-quality mask through Day 10:
 - If the individual is able to mask, they must do so through Day 10.
 - If the child has a negative test on Day 5 or later, they do not need to mask.
 - If the individual is unable to mask, they may return to programming with a negative test on Day 5 or later.
- Symptomatic individuals can remain in their school or program if they have mild symptoms, are tested immediately onsite, and that test is negative. Best practice would also include wearing a mask, if possible, until symptoms are fully resolved. For symptomatic individuals, DPH recommends a second test within 48 hours if the initial test is negative.

If the symptomatic individual cannot be tested immediately, they should be sent home and allowed to return to their program or school if symptoms remain mild and they test negative, or they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and their symptoms are resolving, or if a medical professional makes an alternative diagnosis. A negative test is strongly recommended for return.