



Superintendent's Report  
September 22, 2021

**Covid-19 Infections, vaccinations and consents to test**

This is the communication emailed to families on Friday, September 17, 2021 in regards to Covid-19 infections, vaccination rates and consents for testing.

Last week you learned that Commissioner Riley was helpful in launching our test and stay program to keep students who are close contacts of a positive case in school. Well, I am happy to report, the program is working by design. This week (9/12-9/17) we had 9 positive cases of students and staff and they are currently in the quarantine protocol. Following the close contact protocols and the test and stay program, we were able to keep over 100 students in school who were close contacts of the positive cases. Our goal is to keep kids and staff safe and in school. Thus far, we have been able to maximize that effort. Testing will be key to keeping kids in school. [Here is a link to the consent to test](#), if you have not already done so. Here is the weekly data report on positive cases, vaccination rates, and consents for testing.

**Positive covid-19 Cases (9/12-9/17)**

Center-1  
Hale-2  
FSS-3  
MRE-0  
LBMS-1  
NHS-2

Vaccination rates (Data of individuals who consented entry into the MIIS database. If a vaccine was administered in another state, or a patient has opted out of sharing medical data in the MIIS database, we are not able to collect it.)

7th Grade: Hale=71%, FSS=84%, LBMS=60%  
8th Grade: Hale=85%, FSS=73%, LBMS=65%  
9th Grade=86%  
10th Grade=84%  
11th Grade=81%  
12th Grade=85%  
Nashoba Staff=90%

**Consent for Testing**

Center-63%  
Hale-45%  
FSS-50%

MRE-43%  
LBMS-33%  
NHS-36%

### **More clarity on Test and Stay**

Some questions have surfaced regarding application of the test and stay program. One of those questions is, "Can my child partake in the test and stay program if he/she is a close contact of a positive case outside of the school environment?" The short answer is, no. The test and stay program is designed for testing individuals who are in close contact with a confirmed case of covid who is an employee or student of the school system. The school system cannot monitor the case status of community members that are not employees and students. In addition, the school system does not have the human resources to test close contacts outside of the school environment as it could become unmanageable for our nurses to track. We have to stay limited to close contacts of employees and students who test positive for covid. Included in your packet is the flow chart our nurses use to make those determinations.

### **Focus Group Meetings for Entry**

On Wednesday, September 15, 2021 I had the opportunity to attend the first Special Education Parent Advisory Council meeting at the invitation of SEPAC Chair, Charlene Cabral. This meet and greet event gave me an opportunity to engage with over twenty parents of special education students for one hour in the high school library. I had a chance to mingle with families and build connections as well as speak to my resume, my family and my vision for what is possible for our students. This meeting followed through on a promise I made to engage with our SEPAC families and my hope is that we continue to have strong attendance at those meetings as we strengthen the function of our SEPAC in the spirit of partnering with the school district in solving complex problems our students experience.

On September 29th I will be hosting the first entry workshop event at Center School in Stow at 7:00 p.m. The workshop will be an activity based event where parents will discuss the key questions I emailed out to families in my September 10th communication. While the event will be in Stow, families from all three towns are welcome to attend. I will publish a sign up for the event in my September 24th communication to families.

### **EMT Update**

Last week I had the opportunity to meet with Don Lowe, Bolton Town Administrator, and Jeffery Legendre, Bolton Fire Chief, to discuss the current status of the EMT program in relation to the age minimum waiver required for our students to receive certification once they are 16 ½ years of age. Currently, the waiver has not been approved. I met with Representative Kate Hogan to discuss getting the waiver approved and she is reaching out to proper authorities to help facilitate that process. In the meantime, Chief Legendere, informed me we can continue to run the program for all students under two categories.

Students who are certified EMT's can begin taking calls by a certified driver at the high school. We hope to have that up and running very soon. We have solved the driver issue and we have a plan for training a staff member to drive the emergency vehicle to take students to an emergency call. For students who are new to the program, they will take the courses and participate in the training under the first responder classification. We will continue to push for the waiver so the hours those students are collecting will apply to their EMT certification.

### **ESSER III Grant Application**

On Friday, September 10th I sent the return to school plan out to the community once again, but this time for public comment. We have received feedback on the plan from the community and we will make adjustments to that plan prior to submission to DESE. I will also publish the adjustments to the community in an effort to show their feedback offered us opportunities to improve our plan. The grant submission is due on October 5, 2021.

Ann Marie Stoica, Director of Human Resources • Rob Frieswick, Director of Facilities  
Joan DeAngelis, Director of Pupil Personnel Services • Tania Rich, Director of Athletics  
Patricia Marone, Director of Business and Operations

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## **Teaching and Learning Update**

On Friday September 17, NRSD held our first Early Release Day with a focus on Social Emotional Learning K-8 and Visioning at NRHS. As a Building Based Early Release Day, our focus was on embedding Social Emotional Learning Strategies into classrooms with work on each building's Social Emotional Learning Plan. In December, a Train the Trainer model will be implemented in each of our buildings in educating our staff on strategies for addressing social emotional learning needs in our schools and sharing those with faculty. On Friday, some schools looked at processes for teams to review SEL resources from previous years and shared out. Other buildings examined student data from assessments and identified areas of concern that can be addressed through the Understanding by Design model. Next, schools will look at how to build these areas into units using the UDL framework. HS Visioning began by looking to the future in identifying expectations for the important work ahead in our high school building project as well as addressing ways in which we can accelerate student learning through examination of DESE's Acceleration Roadmap for teachers. It was a busy and productive week in the district.

**Ann Marie Stoica, Director of Human Resources • Rob Frieswick, Director of Facilities  
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