



January 25, 2021



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opening of the new Kennedy Middle School!

Remote and Hybrid Learning Changes went into effect on 1/19/21, and 1/22/21

MLK Day a Success, Congrats to Our three Winners:

Jane Brunell, grade 7 KMS

Allison Uzzell, grade 7 WMS

McKenzie McDonald, NHS grade 11 (art piece)





ACTION ITEMS



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Consent Agenda

Naming of the Planetarium (2nd notice)



BUDGET MEETING SCHEDULE

January 4, 4pm, Finance team meets with Mr. Scurlock about strategy and methods overall

January 11, Teaching and Learning Budget at School Committee

January 14 5pm ed sub committee Overview/Teaching and Learning

January 14, Fin Com Overview with larger committee, 7pm

January 25, Technology and Transportation Budgets at School Committee

Jan 26, 5pm, proposed ed sub committee meeting Technology and transportation review of revolvers (excluding circuit breaker)

February 8, Special Education/Circuit Breaker to School Committee

February 9, proposed 5pm ed sub committee meeting on Special Education and Circuit Breaker

February 22, Capital updates/Budget Overview Discussions at School Committee

February 23, 5pm Education Sub committee Capital and Space Planning/Updates (reports to date from the space and planning committee)/final round up

February 25, proposed ed sub committee meeting , 5pm --open for any additional needs

February 25, Town and School Townwide Community Budget Forum

March 8, Budget Overview and Final Vote (tentative based on town scheduling of town meeting)



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. [Overview of Proposed FY22 Transportation Budget](#)

2. Overview of Proposed FY22 Technology Budget

[Technology Agreements](#)

[Technology Sustainability](#)

[Technology Presentation](#)

3. KMS Building Project Update

4. Update on Covid Testing

5. Update on Program Space Study Committee

6. Proposed 2021-2022 Draft School Calendar • Subcommittee/Liaison Updates

Dear Dr. Nolin,

I am hoping covid 19 will be gone by summer. And I am looking forward to having more fun summer activities please make a lot of programs and water fun activities for us kids.

Dr. Nolin, the reason is why I want more summer fun activities is

because we need to be and have fun for a long time are stuck inside the home because of covid. I wish to enjoy the sun meet old and new friends



HEALTH UPDATE/COVID TESTING

- Boys BBall Program Two-Week Pause while we evaluate the situation
- Family Trend Caution: Activities and Family Activities
- Pool Testing Update



HEALTH UPDATE: VACCINES AND FUTURE

- Free 6 week pool testing offered by DESE, will be examined, not a cure-all
- February - April Vaccination of Educators (Moderna vaccine)-moved back as of today
- Caution: vaccinated teachers does not mean kids or parents are vaccinated. Hybrid and safety measures will still need to be in place.
- General population vaccination will come in waves, with a hoped for herd immunity by return to school next fall.
- Unclear future for vaccine for children; we will follow Dept. of Public Health guidance for a gradual return to school.
- Pool testing may help us accelerate that process.



POOL TESTING OVERVIEW

[DESE information site](#)

Pooled Testing Overview

- Pooled testing involves mixing roughly 10-25 samples, or swabs, together in a “batch” or “pool” then testing the pooled sample with a PCR test.
- The test is performed once per week on an anterior nasal swab ("short swab") and results are delivered in approximately 24-48 hours.
- The samples can be administered by any trained school staff.
- Students in certain age groups can take their own samples under supervision.

Pooled Testing Protocol

- If a pooled test result is negative, then all individuals within that pool are presumed negative and may remain in school.
- If a pooled test result is positive, then all individuals in the pool are retested individually, called “reflex testing”
 - The Abbott BinaxNOW rapid point-of-care antigen test will be the primary source for this individual follow-up testing.
 - In the rare event that a positive pool yields all negative individual BinaxNOW tests, all individuals from that positive pool may be required to take an additional individual PCR test.

Optional Services for Purchase

- If a district or school lacks the internal capacity or personnel to administer and transport the tests to the laboratory, they may be able to purchase the following services from the statewide contract:
 - Onsite testing coordinator/manager
 - The Testing Service Provider will provide an individual to support the onsite management of the test administration
 - Onsite test administrators/specimen collectors
 - The Testing Service Provider will provide the health professionals to administer the test to students and staff through, for example, a subcontract with an EMT service provider.
 - Transportation of tests from the school to the laboratory
 - The Testing Service Provider will develop a contract with a daily courier service or other shipping service to deliver tests to the laboratory.

- In most cases, districts and schools will rely on their own, in-district personnel or contracted providers to complete the following services:
 - Manage all testing logistics, including overseeing test administration, data entry, software management (i.e., testing coordinator/manager)
 - Administer the specimen collection to students and staff
 - Administer any necessary follow-up testing with Abbott BinaxNOW (including reporting of results)
 - Transport tests to laboratory for processing (likely 1x/day)

Uses of BinaxNOW in Massachusetts schools

Current use

- Schools use BinaxNOW to tests students or staff **who have symptoms of an illness consistent with COVID-19 (i.e., symptomatic students + staff).**

Future use

- **In addition to its current uses,** BinaxNOW tests will play a key role in the Commonwealth's pooled testing initiative.
- When pooled results are positive, **DPH recommends that schools use BinaxNOW tests to determine the positive individual in the pool.**



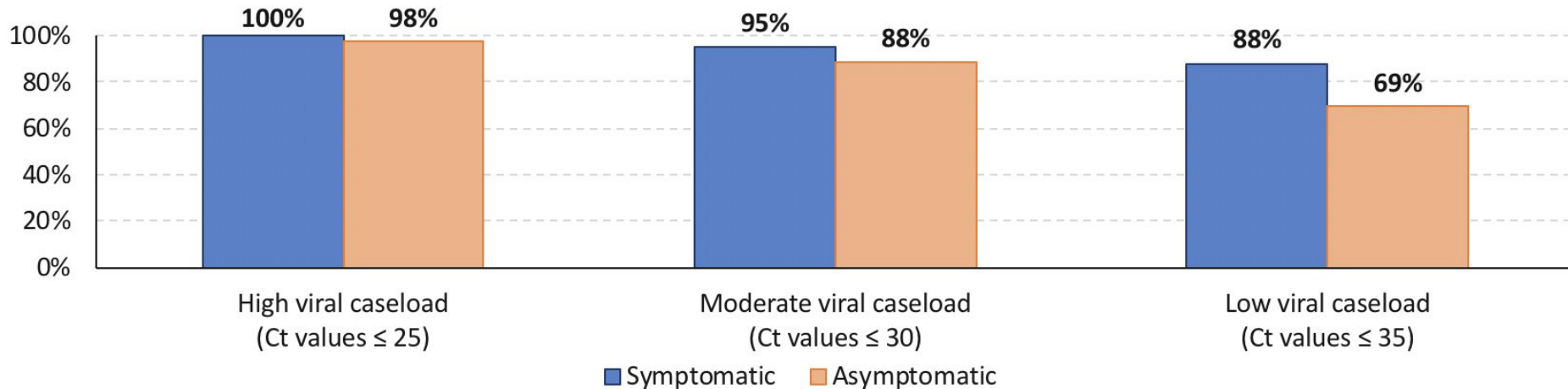
Overview of BinaxNOW study

- While the BinaxNOW test provides more rapid results (~15 minutes versus 24-48 hours for PCR), DPH wants to ensure that the tests were able to accurately identify infected individuals, as well.
- To determine this, researchers tested individuals using both the BinaxNOW test and a PCR test.
- This study was conducted at a drive-thru testing site in Lawrence, MA and included:
 - Symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals
 - Children and adults

Accuracy in children with varying viral loads

Percentage of positive PCR tests accompanied by a positive BinaxNOW test, by viral load

All other results were false negatives (PCR positive & BinaxNOW negative)



When compared to PCR tests, BinaxNOW is **accurate in detecting COVID-19 in children with moderate to high viral loads**, even if they are asymptomatic.

These children are the most likely to be highly contagious and transmit the disease.

Recap of BinaxNOW benefits for pooled testing

- BinaxNOW offers a fast and accurate way to test for COVID-19 in symptomatic children and **asymptomatic children as part of a positive pooled test result.**
- Across symptomatic and asymptomatic children, BinaxNOW consistently identifies those individuals with moderate/high viral loads who are the most likely to be infectious.
- Compared to PCR tests, BinaxNOW provides results in 15 mins, allowing for rapid deployment of quarantine and contact tracing procedures.
- Given the speed, accuracy, price, and widespread availability, **BinaxNOW is an effective way to test for COVID-19 in schools and the recommended follow-up test for the pooled test program.**

Updates to Abbott BinaxNOW Testing Program

- Districts and schools may use Abbott BinaxNOW tests in two ways:
 - Symptomatic individuals only
 - Individual follow-up tests in the Pooled Testing Program
- Districts and schools should begin completing the preconditions required for distribution of Abbott BinaxNOW tests
 - Statewide CLIA Certificate of Waiver
 - Signed Physician's Standing Order
 - PPE
 - Consent to Test and Report Results
 - Symptomatic program consent & reporting forms can be found on the [Abbott BinaxNOW section of the DESE website](#).
 - Follow-Up Test consent & reporting forms can be found on the [Pooled Testing Program section of the DESE website](#).
- Readiness Checklists should be sent to k12COVID19testing@mass.gov.

Next steps

- **Start Date:** Mainly beginning the week of 2/8 for those schools that are ready.
 - N.B. Schools and districts that do not require additional operational support are more likely to begin pooled testing soonest.
 - Matching will be done on a rolling basis and will continue through the week 3/1 if schools and districts continue to apply throughout February.
- By early-to-mid March, a **statewide contract** will be available for schools and districts to purchase off of to continue pooled testing operations.



SCHOOL CALENDAR

Overview of the work the policy committee is currently doing,
Mr. Brand, Dr. McKenzie



MEMBER'S CONCERNS

School Committee

Teachers

Students



THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP!



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social media or connect using Let's Talk!

