1/12/22

Dear Families,

We have exciting news to help students remain in school when identified as a close contact to a positive individual in the school setting. As we all know, COVID has disrupted the normalcy of education. When students contract the virus or when they are identified as a close contact, time out of school affects the continuity of learning.

The Fall River Public Schools has now added another layer of protection to help prevent the spread of COVID -19 in our schools. In addition to the current symptomatic testing program already in place, we are now offering a second testing program (Test and Stay) for our students and staff. In collaboration with East Coast Clinical Health, we are now providing the option to participate in the Test and Stay program.

**Students may only participate in the following programs with signed permission from a parent or guardian**:

*Symptomatic Testing:* This test program is for individuals who present with COVID-like symptoms while at school. Results are ready in 15 minutes.

*“Test and Stay” (close contact testing):* This testing program is for asymptomatic individuals who are identified as a close contact of a positive individual in the school setting. These close contacts will be testeddaily from the first day of exposure for at least five (5) days and up to (7) days. If an individual tests negative, they are allowed to remain in school. Results are ready in 15 minutes.

To participate in the program, you must complete and sign the attached consent form on behalf of your child and return it to your child’s school nurse.

There is no charge for participating. If you have additional questions regarding the program, please contact your child’s school nurse.