

Lowell Public Schools

COVID-19 Data Monitoring

October 15, 2021



LOWELL
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Lowell Public Schools COVID Dashboard

Located on the Lowell Public Schools website: <https://www.lowell.k12.ma.us/coviddashboard>

Includes information and updates on:

- COVID-19 data
- Protocols and guidelines
- Where to go to get tested
- What to do if you test positive, or are a close contact
- COVID-19 Vaccine

The screenshot shows the Lowell Public Schools website header with navigation links: Our District, Departments, Parents & Students, Staff, and Care. Below the header, the breadcrumb trail reads: Lowell Public Schools > Parents & Students > 2021-2022 School Year Information.

The main content area features a sidebar on the left with the following menu items: 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR INFORMATION, Welcome, Frequently Asked Questions, 2021-2022 District Calendar, Handbooks, **COVID Dashboard** (highlighted with a red arrow), COVID-19 Vaccine, COVID-19 Reporting, COVID-19 Key Definitions, and Where can you get tested for COVID-19.

The main content area has a large red banner at the top that reads "Lowell Public Schools COVID Dashboard". Below the banner, a welcome message states: "Welcome to the Lowell Public Schools COVID-19 Dashboard, where you can find the latest updates related to COVID-19, including COVID-19 data, testing info and vaccine info." Below this message are six red buttons arranged in two rows of three: "COVID-19 Testing Consent", "COVID-19 Vaccine Consent", "COVID-19 Reporting", "COVID-19 Vaccine", "COVID-19 Key Definitions", and "Where You Can Get Tested".



LPS COVID Positive Cases

<i>Oct 7 - Oct 13, 2021</i>			
School Name	Student Count	All Staff Count	Total
Charles W Morey	2	0	2
Dr. Janice Adie Day School	1	0	1
Dr. Gertrude Bailey School	1	0	1
James Sullivan Middle School	2	0	2
John J Shaughnessy	2	0	2
Kathryn P. Stoklosa Middle School	1	0	1
Leblanc Therapeutic Day School	0	1	1
Lowell High	7	1	8
Pawtucketville Memorial	0	1	1
Pyne Arts	1	0	1
Rogers STEM Academy	1	0	1
S Christa McAuliffe Elementary	1	3	4
Washington	1	2	3
Totals	20	8	28



Testing Services included in the COVID-19 Testing Program

Symptomatic Testing

- **For when individuals present symptoms while at school;** individuals should not go to school if experiencing symptoms while at home.
- Samples are collected at school using **the BinaxNOW rapid antigen test.**
- Those testing **negative with isolated/mild symptoms can stay** in school.

“Test and Stay”

Close contact testing

- For when individuals are in close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual while at school.
- Samples are collected at school **using the BinaxNOW rapid antigen test.**
- Tests are **administered daily for at least five days** from the date of exposure.

Routine COVID Pooled Testing

- **Routine Pooled Testing and School-Based Follow-Up Testing:** samples are collected at school; if a pool is positive, follow-up testing at school with **either BinaxNOW and/or individual PCR testing as necessary.**
- **Routine Pooled Testing and Lab-Based Follow-Up Testing:** samples are collected; if a pool is positive, **individual follow-up testing occurs at the lab,** without a second sample collection.



Process when a we receive a positive pool test

- All members of the positive pool will be Binax tested the next school day.
- CIC testing teams will arrive to the school and then administration will call the individuals down to be tested. If positive is identified, all other members of pool can go back to class and positive person is sent home to follow the isolation guidelines as set forth by DESE. If no positive is identified, then the testing team returns the following day and will test the pool again.
- Any close contacts will be identified and notified as well. Close contacts who have consented to testing will be included in test and stay for the following five days.



Process when a we receive a positive pool test

The following close contacts are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols:

1. **Asymptomatic fully vaccinated close contacts:** Individuals who are asymptomatic and fully vaccinated are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols.
2. **Classroom close contacts:** An individual, who is exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual in the classroom while both individuals were masked, so long as the individuals were spaced at least 3 feet apart, is exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols.
3. **Bus close contacts:** Individuals on buses must be masked according to federal requirements. As such, individuals who are masked on buses when windows are open are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols.
4. **Close contacts who have had COVID-19 within the past 90 days:** An individual who has been previously diagnosed with COVID-19 and then becomes a close contact of someone with COVID-19 is exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols if:
 - a. The exposure occurred within 90 days of the onset of their own illness AND
 - b. The exposed individual is recovered and remains without COVID-19 symptoms.



General Updates

- Consents continue to be submitted especially when a child is identified as a close contact. Parents often consent so their child can continue to stay in school.
- Data is captured differently this year and this report will reflect this new method over the upcoming weeks.
- Pool testing is working! We are identifying asymptomatic individuals and following test and stay protocols. Testing teams are very busy doing test and stay at schools each week along with the weekly pool testing. There will be more data on this soon.