

THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
185 BRANCH ROAD
THOMASTON, CT 06787
860-283-3053
860-283-3096

FRANCINE COSS, SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, January 13, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians:

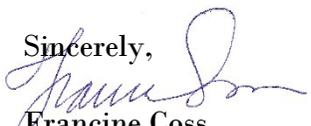
Thomaston Public Schools will receive the next allotment of COVID-19 Test Kits for students tomorrow morning. This allotment will contain enough COVID-19 Test Kits for all students at Thomaston Center School and Thomaston High School. **This means that every student in attendance tomorrow (Friday, January 14, 2022) will receive one COVID-19 test kit to bring home.**

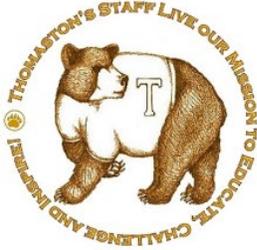
The COVID-19 Test Kit being given to your child tomorrow will contain two COVID-19 tests and is sealed to protect the integrity of those tests. Your child should not attempt to open the test kit as it may become damaged. Therefore, **it is important that you tell your child not to tamper with the test kit seal, no matter how curious they may be.** The district does not have enough additional COVID-19 Test Kits to replace damaged test kits.

Finally, please do not leave the COVID-19 Test Kit in the car or any other extremely cold place as extreme cold will damage the test kit.

NOTE: If you are in a family that receives a test kit tomorrow, **please do not use the test before reading the conditions of use document at the end of this letter.**

And, as always, please do not send your child to school if he or she is symptomatic and let Mrs. Aniki know if they are COVID-19 positive.

Sincerely,

Francine Coss
Superintendent of Schools



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FRANCINE COSS, SUPERINTENDENT

jueves 13 de enero de 2022

Estimados padres / tutores:

Las Escuelas Públicas de Thomaston recibirán la próxima asignación de kits de prueba COVID-19 para los estudiantes mañana por la mañana. Esta asignación contendrá suficientes kits de prueba COVID-19 para todos los estudiantes en Thomaston Center School y Thomaston High School. **Esto significa que cada estudiante que asista mañana (viernes 14 de enero de 2022) recibirá un kit de prueba de COVID-19 para llevar a casa.**

El kit de prueba de COVID-19 que se le dará a su hijo/a mañana contendrá dos pruebas de COVID-19 y está sellado para proteger la integridad de esas pruebas. Su hijo/a no debe intentar abrir el kit de prueba, ya que podría dañarse. Por lo tanto, **es importante que le diga a su hijo/a que no manipule el sello del kit de prueba, sin importar cuán curioso pueda ser.** El distrito no tiene suficientes kits de prueba COVID-19 adicionales para reemplazar los kits de prueba dañados.

Finalmente, no deje el kit de prueba COVID-19 en el automóvil o en cualquier otro lugar extremadamente frío, ya que el frío extremo dañará el kit de prueba.

NOTA: Si pertenece a una familia que recibe un kit de prueba mañana, **no use la prueba antes de leer el documento de condiciones de uso al final de esta carta.**

Y, como siempre, no envíe a su hijo/a a la escuela si tiene síntomas e infórmele a la Sra. Aniki si es COVID-19 positivo.

Atentamente,

Francine Coss

Superintendente de escuelas



COVID-19 Self-Test Frequently Asked Questions

Why Use a COVID-19 Self-Test?

COVID-19 self-testing is one of the actions you can take to protect yourself and your close contacts. To [protect yourself and others](#) against COVID-19, you should:

- Get the COVID19 vaccine and your booster
- Wear a mask
- Practice social distancing, whenever possible

Are COVID-19 self-tests difficult to use?

Self-tests can be taken at home or anywhere, are easy to use, and produce quick results.

Some kits have two test cards. Can I use one of them for two people?

Each kit is meant for one person, whether the kit contains one test or two tests. If you are using a kit that contains two tests: if your first test is negative, use the second test 24-48 hours later, per manufacturer's instructions.

When should I use it?

- Use a self-test if you are feeling sick to quickly learn if you might have COVID-19
- Use a self-test after you're notified that you have been [exposed to someone with COVID-19](#). If it is negative, you can repeat the test five days after exposure
- Use a self-test before going to indoor gatherings to evaluate your risk of spreading COVID-19

If I am vaccinated or unvaccinated, will the test still work?

Yes. You can use self-tests, regardless of vaccination status.

How long do I need to be sick before I use the test kit?

You can use self-tests, even when you are not sick. Someone with COVID-19 symptoms should get tested as soon as possible.

What does a positive COVID-19 self-test result mean?

[If you test positive](#), you should [isolate](#) and inform your healthcare provider, as well as any [close contacts](#). You **do not** need to get another test through a doctor or pharmacy.

- A positive self-test result means that the test detected the virus, and you are very likely to have COVID-19
- Stay home or isolate for [five days](#), even if you are asymptomatic or your symptoms are resolving
- Wear a mask if you have contact with others
- Avoid indoor gatherings to reduce the risk of spreading disease to someone else

What does a negative COVID-19 self-test mean?

A negative self-test result means that the test did not detect the virus and you may not have an infection, *but it does not entirely rule out infection*. Repeating the test within a few days, with at least 24 hours between tests, will increase the confidence that you are not infected. (That is why each kit comes with two tests.) **If you do not feel well, regardless of a negative test result, you should stay home.**

What does an inconclusive or invalid COVID-19 self-test mean?

If your home test is inconclusive, use the second test card and try again. If both are inconclusive, then consider getting tested through your health care provider, a pharmacy, or at a community site.

Do I need to report my COVID-19 test result to the state or local health authorities?

No. You do not need to report your result to public health authorities, but you should tell your [close contacts](#) (people you have spent time with lately) that you have COVID-19, so that they can get tested and protect others, too. In addition, if a child who attends daycare or school tests positive, you should inform the institution.

Will this test detect variants?

Self-tests will not tell you which variant of the virus has been detected. FDA has been monitoring the potential impact of genetic variants on antigen tests (self-tests are antigen tests). Early data suggests that antigen tests do detect the omicron variant but may have reduced sensitivity. [Click here for more information.](#)

For more information on self-test kits, please visit the CDC website at: [Self-Testing | CDC](#)