



Major George S. Welch Elementary School

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3100 Hawthorne Drive, Dover, Delaware 19901

Jason Payne
Principal

Jean Miclette
Asst. Principal

Subject line: Preventing Spread of COVID-19 after Winter Break

Dear Welch Elementary Parent,

As winter break approaches and with the number of new, confirmed cases of COVID-19 on the rise in Delaware, we have partnered with the Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH) to provide recommendations for how to prevent the spread of COVID-19 as students return to school on January 3, 2022:

- **Get vaccinated:** First and foremost, vaccinating all children age five and older is an important way to keep your student safe, prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our community, and maintain in-person instruction throughout the school year.
- **Enroll in testing programs:** We provide our students access to free, weekly COVID-19 tests through the In-School Testing program and testing for students who may have been exposed to COVID-19 through our new “Test to Stay” Program. To check to see if your school is participating, and learn more about the program, please [visit the COVID-19 school testing website](#).
- **Test at home before returning to school:** The day before your student returns to school on January 3, 2022, you can test for COVID-19 with an antigen test by visiting a testing site [<https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/testing/>] or by purchasing a home testing kit such as the Quidel QuickVue At-Home COVID-19 Test Kit or the Abbott BinaxNOW COVID-19 Self-Test Kit online or at your local pharmacy. If your child tests positive, follow up with your student’s physician, let Mrs. Bittner and Mrs. Popp know, and confirm the results with a PCR test at a doctor’s office or testing site [<https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/testing/>].
- **Test if exposed or symptomatic:** If your student has been exposed to someone with COVID-19 during winter break, please have your student tested before they return to school. Students exposed to COVID-19 and participating in the “Test to Stay” Program can receive daily antigen tests to remain in school while quarantining at test to stay locations starting on the evening of January 3, 2022 from 4-7pm at Caesar Rodney High School and Magnolia Middle School. However, testing will not be available through our program during Winter Break.

COVID-19 cases are still a significant concern in our community—and vaccinating and testing your student are important for stopping the virus from spreading. I hope you and your family have a safe and wonderful winter break.

Thank you.

Jason Payne
Principal
Major George S. Welch Elementary
Caesar Rodney School District

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