



January 2, 2022

Dear Lawrence Public Schools families,

I am writing to inform you that **there will be no school tomorrow, Monday, January 3.**

As you may be aware, on Saturday the state provided Massachusetts school districts with at-home rapid tests for staff, as an added COVID-19 mitigation measure to support the safest possible return to school. These tests were made available to all LPS employees this morning.

However, we require additional time to more fully complete this process, as well as to better assess staffing needs. I recognize the inconvenience this creates for many families, and deeply appreciate your support as we do everything possible to ensure our students and staff return to a safe, positive and productive school day.

We will communicate with you again tomorrow regarding our return. Until then, allow me to share some critical updates and reminders:

- We have updated our COVID-19 protocols (found in [English here](#) and in [Spanish here](#)) based on the latest guidance from state health and education officials. They include the shorter 5-day isolation and quarantine periods now recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (if asymptomatic or symptoms have resolved).
- The above protocols also include the full list of COVID-19 symptoms. Thank you for continuing to monitor your children and family closely for these, keeping them home when not feeling well, and testing when possible and appropriate.
- Testing remains an essential tool, and we will be resuming our COVID safety checks when we return to school. Safety checks use weekly group tests of asymptomatic participants to prevent potential spread of the virus before it starts. If you have not yet done so you can provide [consent online here for your child's participation](#). Doing so also provides consent for other aspects of our testing program: Test and Stay and symptomatic testing.
- As you know masks are already required for all students, staff and visitors in LPS buildings, but please note that yesterday the City of Lawrence implemented a city-wide mask mandate for all indoor spaces (see [English here](#), see [Spanish here](#)).

As always, you can find information on all of the above as well as the latest available updates by visiting www.LawrencePublicSchools.org at any time. Thank you all again for your patience and cooperation, and we look forward to reaching out to you again tomorrow.

Be well,

Cynthia Paris
Superintendent of Schools