

To: School Committee
From: Emily Parks, Superintendent
Subj.: Staff COVID testing
Date: January 8, 2021

The district will be offering staff COVID testing during the week of January 11. We have contracted with Mirimus to provide pool testing. The collaborative of schools that the Wellesley Public Schools is affiliated with has been using Mirimus and has been pleased with their program. Test kits will be distributed to each school on Wednesday, January 13. Staff will pickup kits on Thursday and return them on Friday. The samples will be tested over the weekend with results provided to the district on Monday.

The cost to the district is \$15 per test. If a pool test is positive, Mirimus will narrow to two samples and then retest for \$30. Assuming all staff participate (approx 600 samples), the total cost for this week of testing will be \$9,410, which includes shipping back and forth. In our pilot last month, 64% of all staff participated. We anticipate that a higher percentage will participate now, but likely not 100%.

Beyond next week, in consultation with the COVID-19 Medical Advisory Group, the School Committee previously identified regular weekly staff testing as a priority. We are ready to contract with Mirimus to establish a testing program. I would suggest that we plan to test staff weekly until the April vacation. We can reassess at that point the plan for the remaining of the spring. To do so, we would propose reallocating funds that are currently earmarked for "Conferences and Meetings" and the savings realized in transportation from remote Wednesdays during the first semester.