

# Amesbury Public Schools

## What type of Covid Test is required for the Amesbury Public School Community?

Dear Parents/Guardians, Students, and Staff:

In the event you are advised to obtain a covid test relative to your school involvement, please make sure to get a PCR molecular test instead of an antigen rapid test- see below.

**\*RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DIAGNOSTIC COVID-19 TESTING: To evaluate individuals for current infection, a molecular diagnostic test to detect the presence of the virus by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or other nucleic acid amplification methodology is the gold standard and is the preferred test type. A second method to detect the presence of viral proteins is a diagnostic antigen test. Although these newer diagnostic antigen tests are faster to run, they are less sensitive and less specific and antigen test results must be confirmed by a molecular test.**

The following three locations offer molecular tests:

1. Convenient MD - Newburyport 978-225-6607
2. Anna Jaques Hospital Newburyport 978-463-1000
3. CVS - 2 Lafayette Road - Salisbury 978-462-1303

For more details and to view a lovely colored graph explaining covid test differences, please click the link below.

[Copy of covid19-testing-final-508-July.pdf](#)

Thank you and kind regards,

Amesbury School Health Services