



COVID-19 Testing

Wake County Board of Education Work Session

September 21, 2021

Paul Koh, Assistant Superintendent, Student Support Services



Health Guidance Guiding Priorities

Need to balance between our top 2 priorities:

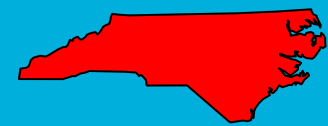
Keep schools
open for all daily
in-person
instruction

Keep students and
staff healthy by
minimizing
exposures and
quarantines

PRIORITY

Health Guidance Considerations for the Delta Variant

1.



Vaccinations

Recommended range of 70%-90% vaccinated for students and staff

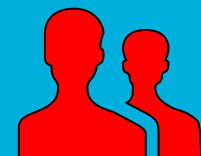
2.



Positive Cases

Significant declining rate covering 28 days (2 incubation cycles)

3.



Cases per 100,000

7-day average 10 cases or less per 100,00 in the community

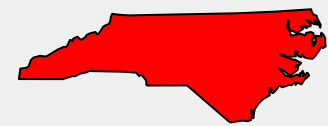
The following considerations are used for all decisions when discussing necessary health guidelines during in-person instruction.

There is no single metric that can be calculated from these three areas that will automatically trigger a change in guidance.

All three will be used and given the weight needed based on the circumstances.

Considerations for In-person Instruction During COVID-19

1.



Vaccinations

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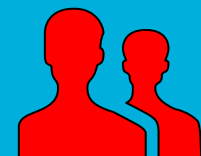
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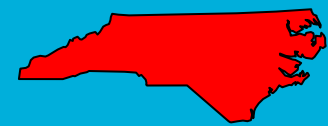
7-day average 10 cases or less per 100,00 in the community

Age Group	% of Wake County population with at least one dose (as of 9/14)	% of Wake County population fully vaccinated (as of 9/14)
12-17	66%	61%
18-24	68%	63%
25-49	74%	69%
50-64	84%	81%
65-74	96%	94%
75+	100%	100%

[Source: NCDHHS Vaccinations Data Dashboard](#)

Considerations for In-person Instruction During COVID-19

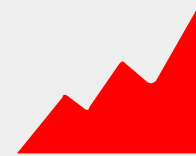
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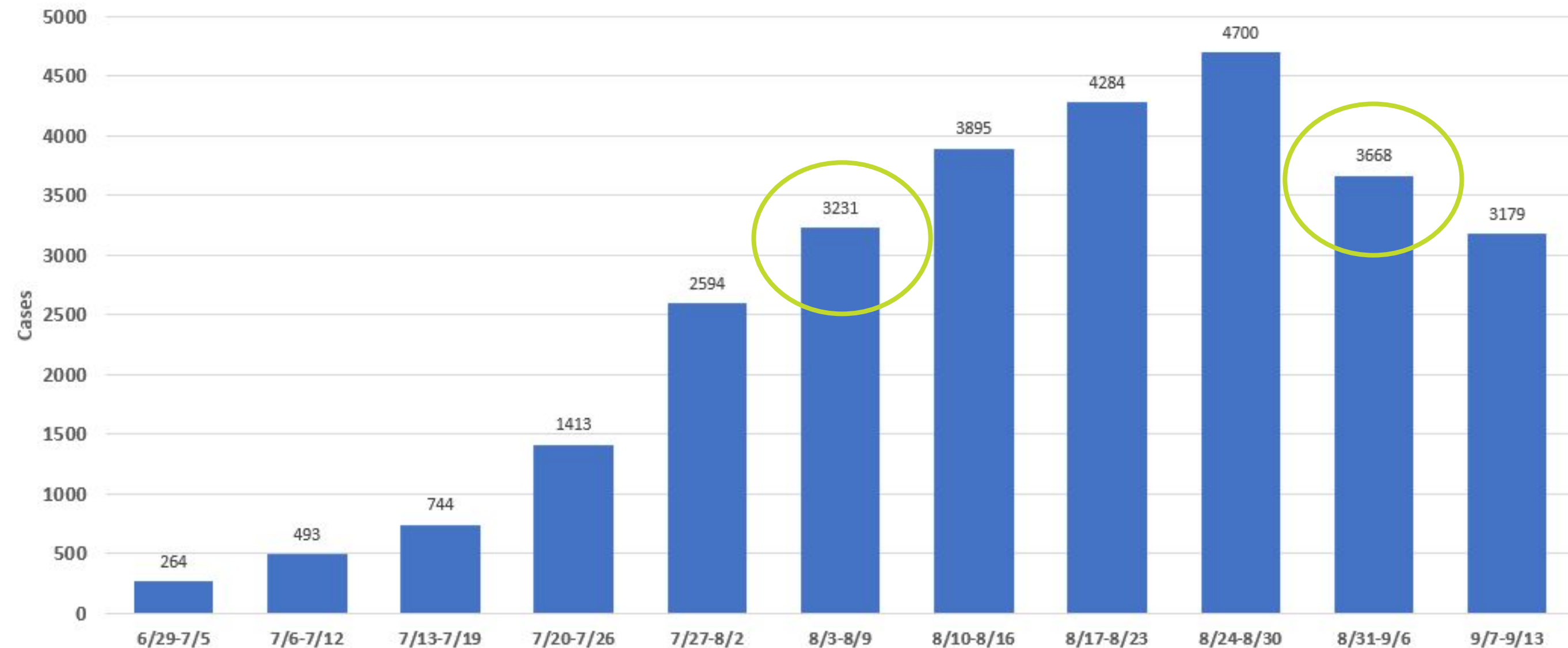
3.



Cases per 100,000

7-day average 10 cases or less per 100,00 in the community

Wake County COVID-19 Cases by Week



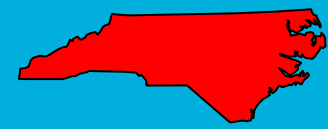
WAKE COUNTY

Source: <https://nccovid.ncpublichealth.com/>

2

Considerations for In-person Instruction During COVID-19

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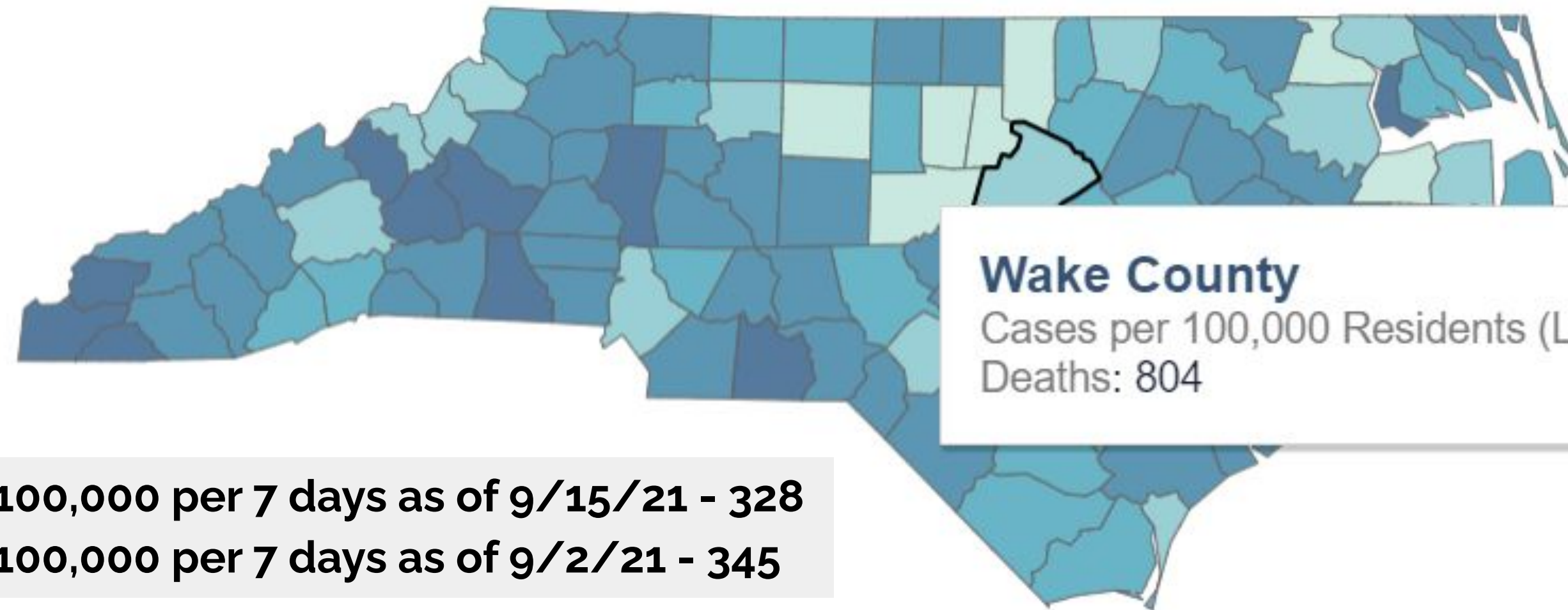


Cases per 100,000

7-day average 10 cases or less per 100,00 in the community

County Map by Cases per 100,000 Residents (Molecular (PCR) and Antigen)

(Click to highlight map, unclick to revert map)



Cases per 100,000 per 7 days as of 9/15/21 - 328
 Cases per 100,000 per 7 days as of 9/2/21 - 345

CDC Transmission Risk Calculations

	Low	Moderate	Substantial	High
New cases per 100,000 per 7 days	less than 10	10-49.99	50-99.99	greater than or equal to 100

Source: [NCDHHS COVID Summary Dashboard](#) and [CDC Data Tracker](#)



Secondary Considerations for the Delta Variant

These secondary considerations are also important to consider when discussing necessary health guidelines during in-person instruction.

Unlike the primary considerations, they do not have a set target.

However, they should not be ignored as we determine appropriate measures to meet our two priorities of providing safe in-person instruction with as few quarantines as possible.

- **Clusters** | Clusters are the results of on-campus transmissions. The fewer the better.
- **Community Hospitalizations** | High rates in the community increase risk to staff and students.
- **Community Deaths** | While vaccines have reduced COVID-19 deaths, they must be monitored.

WCPSS Staff Vaccination Status - as of 9/17/21

Self-reported	Percent of Respondents (n=18,195)
Fully vaccinated	85.9% (15,639)
Partially vaccinated	1.5% (271)
Have plans to get vaccinated	1.4% (260)
No plans to get vaccinated	2.6% (472)
Not yet responded	1,311 (6.7% of all staff)



Federal Mandates for Vaccinations and Testing

September 9, 2021 - President Biden announced a COVID-19 Action Plan

- Actions that will be required of WCPSS

Vaccination Requirements for Head Start Staff

- Teachers/staff at Head Start and Early Head Start programs to be vaccinated against COVID-19
- Anticipated deadline - January 2022
- WCPSS Head Start programs are operated by Telamon Corp, and we expect that staff members for those programs will be affected by the federal mandate

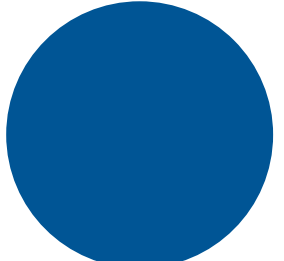
Vaccination and Testing Requirements for Employers with 100-plus Employees

- OSHA directed to develop an Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS)
- Ensure their workforce is fully vaccinated or test weekly
- States have 30 days to adopt
- North Carolina law requires that NC OSHA adopt the same rules, or effective alternative
- NC OSHA rules apply to state and local government employers
- WCPSS staff would be required to vaccinate or test weekly, unless state adopts equally effective alternative



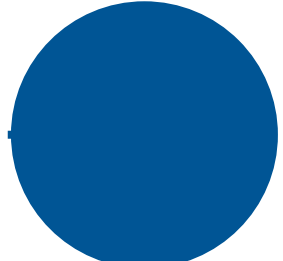
NC DHHS COVID Testing Program Updates

September 10, 2021



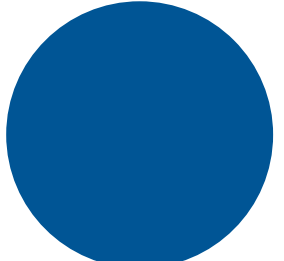
Opt-In form completed without committing to testing format

September 21, 2021



Provide Board with information related to COVID-19 Testing Program

October 5, 2021



Provide Board information on COVID-19 testing and next steps for WCPSS



NCDHHS COVID-19 Testing

State COVID-19 Testing Program

- Open to all public and private schools for 2021-2022 school year
- Schools must opt-in
- Parent consent is required
- Can be tailored to school district specifications and must be consistent throughout the school district
- School districts have options to opt-in with state contracted vendor or participate in an independent testing program

Purpose of Testing

- Strategies recommended by the CDC and NCDHHS for:
 - Diagnostic testing for individuals who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 at school or have recent known close contact to an individual with COVID-19
 - Screening testing for PreK-12 students and staff on a regular, routine basis

Funding

- NCDHHS would provide funding for school district to hire health services staff for medical and technical assistance
- School district responsibility to hire for these positions
- Funding lasts through July 31, 2022

State-Contracted Vendor - Mako Medical FAQs

How much does it cost for students and families?	There is no cost to participate in the COVID testing program at your designated school and you do not need to have insurance.
What should my child expect on the day of testing?	Once the parent/guardian consent form is signed, the student will be tested at the schools designated testing area by Mako Medical Laboratories and then begin their school day.
How do I receive my results?	Results will be available to parents/guardians within 24 hours via email or text. You will be asked to enter your personal information once you are in the easily accessible portal
Who will see my child's results?	The student's guardian will receive the test results along with the school's appointed nurse or healthcare professional.
How frequent will testing take place?	Our program provides weekly testing, but we will work with each school district individually to assess the best timetable.
Do I have to give consent for my child to be tested?	Yes, consent forms for parents and guardians to complete and sign are required to participate in the program. These forms will come directly from your school.
Who will be administering the tests?	MAKO Medical healthcare professionals will be administering the tests, providing the supplies and delivering the results directly to the school MAKO medical has processed over 8 million COVID-19 tests since April 2020 across 43 states.
What's the difference between a rapid test vs PCR test?	The rapid COVID test is administered by anterior nares nasal swab (Swirls around the nostril and does not touch the brain!) The rapid antigen test can return results showing whether the tested is infected with acute COVID-19 the same day.

COVID-19 State Testing Program Options

Vendor Type	Purpose	Frequency	Populations in Scope
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● State-Contracted ● Independent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Routine Screening ● Diagnostic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Once per week ● As needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students ● Staff ● Teachers ● Athletes ● Special Populations

Known school district strategies:

- Guilford County Schools - unvaccinated students participating in athletics and other high-risk extracurricular activities
- Orange County Schools - unvaccinated staff, and unvaccinated students participating in Fall 2021 extracurricular activities
- Winston-Salem Forsyth County Schools - weekly testing for all students participating in middle and high school athletics, band, chorus, dance team, ROTC

*Additional information: [Testing Program Overview Slides](#) and [NCDHHS Testing Program Overview](#)

WCPSS COVID-19 Testing Considerations

Due to current operational needs:

- **WCPSS Staff is unable to administer COVID-19 testing**

Current Strategy	Staff Testing - Vendor	Student Testing - Vendor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain health guidance centered on 3Ws and district priorities • Refer families and staff to available community testing options from NCDHHS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary basis • All staff • Pooled testing • Based on vaccination status • Regular frequency (e.g. once per week) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary basis • All students • Pooled testing • Based on vaccination status (including students under the age of 12) • Targeted population (e.g. athletics, extracurriculars) • Regular frequency (e.g. once per week)



COVID-19 Testing Next Steps

Continue to monitor metrics to assess need for district testing

Information to share by 10/5/21 with Board Members:

- meet with state vendor to explore voluntary testing
- determine availability of take-home test kits with independent vendor(s)
- determine ability for targeted testing
- determine capacity for mandatory testing of staff

Dialogue and Questions

WHAT   
STARTS
 HERE
CHANGES
 EVERYTHING.