



*News from Commissioner Jeffrey C. Riley & the
MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education*

On the Desktop - August 20, 2020

Access to Mobile Testing

Dear Superintendents, Charter School Leaders, Assistant Superintendents, Collaborative Leaders, Leaders of Approved Special Education Schools, and Private School Leaders

The Baker-Polito Administration announced today that local school officials will be able to request a state-sponsored mobile testing unit come to their school to test a group of students and/or staff if a potential cluster of COVID-19 has been identified and transmission appears to have occurred within the school.

School administrators should consult with public health authorities first to determine if a request for mobile testing should be made.

The mobile rapid response unit will provide free testing of asymptomatic students or staff who are not known to be a close contact of someone who tested positive when there is evidence that COVID-19 transmission may have occurred within a classroom or school within the past 14 days. More information is in the [press release](#). The Department of Public Health and DESE will release guidance in the coming weeks on how and when testing can be requested, as well as testing and resulting protocols.

In addition to the mobile testing unit, the Administration will extend the [Stop the Spread initiative](#) through September 30 in certain communities with higher rates of COVID-19 to help cities and towns as students begin to return to school.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey C. Riley
Commissioner