

# Nettle News

Nettle Middle School... *Home of the Knights!*

February 22, 2021



## Travel and Student Health

If you are traveling out of the state for an extended period remember that Effective August 1, 2020, all visitors and returning residents entering Massachusetts are required to do the following:

1. Complete the Massachusetts Travel Form <https://www.mass.gov/forms/massachusetts-travel-form> prior to your arrival, unless you are visiting from a lower-risk state designated by the Department of Public Health and
2. Quarantine for 10 days (HPS 14 days) OR produce a negative COVID-19 test result that has been administered up to 72 hours prior to your arrival in Massachusetts (testing must be by an approved method by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health). Once you receive your negative test results (due to travel), please send it to the school nurse or the main office and your student may return to school. If the COVID-19 test has not been received prior to arrival, visitors and residents must quarantine until they receive a negative test result. [Mass.gov](https://memamaps.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=eba3f0395451430b9f631cb095febf13) COVID Test Locator: <https://memamaps.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=eba3f0395451430b9f631cb095febf13>

Assessing your student's health each morning is an important part of keeping everyone healthy. Below are some questions to ask yourself before sending your student to school each day:

- Has your student shown any covid-related symptoms in the past 24 hours? For example: fever greater than 100 degrees Fahrenheit, cough, shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell, nausea, etc.
- Has your student been identified as a "close contact" of anyone diagnosed with covid-19?
- Has anyone in the household been asked to self-isolate or quarantine?
- Have you travelled recently?

For a list of symptoms and other health information please visit the HPS website at: <https://www.haverhill-ps.org/school-health-services/pandemic-guide-for-families/>

If you have any questions about your child's health please call the nurse, Barbara Otterson, at 978-374-5792 or email [barbara.otterson@haverhill-ps.org](mailto:barbara.otterson@haverhill-ps.org).

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## Attendance Notes

Please call the school at 978-374-5792 if your student is going to be absent. Students should be in homeroom (remote or in-person) at 8:30am Monday-Friday. If your address or phone number has changed please call and let us know!

## Pool Testing FAQs

You may have started to hear about the new classroom COVID-19 tests known as “pool testing.” Haverhill is participating in a pilot program to bring pool testing into schools for Cohorts A, B, and C. Pool testing is a way to test a group of people at the same time. That group is known as a “pool.” At Nettle, there will be one or two pools per classroom. Two permission slips (one for group testing, one for individual testing) have been emailed to you and will be sent home when students return to school.

### How long will it take to get results?

Results from the pool come back in 2-5 days.

### What if the pool comes back positive?

If the pool comes back positive then each person in the pool needs to take an individual test. We have these tests available at school and results come back in **20 minutes!** A positive pool does not mean that the class is put into quarantine for two weeks, we just need to follow up with individual tests.

### What if my student gets a positive individual test?

If your student’s individual test comes back positive your household should begin quarantine immediately, get tested, and follow all guidelines from the CDC and Department of Public Health.

### Why should we do this? Is it mandatory?

We want students in school as much as possible. While it is not mandatory for your student to participate, routine testing is an important tool for getting kids back in school.

The plan is to have Cohorts A and C test on **Tuesdays**; Cohort B and staff test on **Thursdays**. **You will only be notified of the results if the pool comes back positive.**

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## From the Guidance Counselors

We will be meeting with all 8th graders over the next two weeks during their Specials to do an interview preparation lesson. Interview skills are important life skills as many students begin to interview for schools, programs, and first-time jobs.

Essex Tech. will be conducting virtual interviews for applicants on **Friday, February 26th**. Whittier Tech. will be conducting virtual interviews on Monday, March 1st and Tuesday, March 2nd. We will pass along more specific information as we receive it.

The Classical Academy will continue to accept applications due to the pandemic. For any student who has already applied to Classical Academy, the advisors from Haverhill High School will be emailing you to schedule interviews for next week during the evening hours. The CTE Program at Haverhill High School is still accepting applications for the Information Technology Program and Programming and Web Development program. All applications are available on the HHS website.