

POLICY

2022 #5688

Test to Stay Policy

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SUBJECT: Test to Stay Policy

In accordance with the local Health Department's decision to allow Test-to-Stay (TTS) protocols, asymptomatic unvaccinated school-based close contacts (e.g. students, teachers, school staff) can avoid school exclusion (but not other restrictions of quarantine) by testing negative through serial testing using rapid NAAT or antigen tests during a seven-day period following exposure.

This includes all Pre-K through grade 12 schools (when the Pre-K is located in a school building that also serves older students but not Pre-Ks that only serve pre-kindergarten students).

The protocols of this policy apply to exposures that occur in the school setting and while both the person with COVID-19 and exposed person were consistently and properly masked.

Assuming that the exposed person remains asymptomatic, he/she is allowed to remain in school. However, if the exposed person develops symptoms, they must be immediately excluded from school per current school guidance.

The exposed person must be tested a minimum of three times during the seven-day period following exposure, unless recognition of the exposure is delayed or weekends or school breaks intervene. See possible testing regimens below. (Or tested as directed by the state and local health departments.)

The seven-day period is measured in calendar days where the last date of exposure is considered day 0. The first test should be done as soon as possible after exposure is identified (i.e., the first day the student is in school after identified exposure). Therefore, possible testing regimens may include:

Minimum Testing Cadences		
Day of First Test	Day of Second Test	Day of Third Test
0	2 or 3	5, 6, or 7
1	3	5, 6, or 7
2	4	5, 6, or 7
3	5, 6, or 7	NA
4	5, 6, or 7	NA
5	6 or 7	NA
6	NA	NA
7	NA	NA

This table is intended to be a guide. Adjustments should be made to account for weekends and other non-school days, in which case a test should be conducted on the first school day back and continue thereafter according to the above. (OPTIONAL: We also require conducting an additional test on day 7, if the previous test was conducted on day 5, or testing at days 0, 2, 4, and 6.)

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The inability to pay for testing will not prevent a student from being eligible for TTS. NYS is making millions of tests available to counties at no charge. Should an individual student need assistance in this regard, his/her parents/guardians should notify Nurse Melanie Lowery at 315-455-7571.

Adoption Date: January 11, 2022

When an individual tests positive, the District will take the following actions to follow-up on the transmission (e.g., contact tracing):

District will contact parent/guardian and conduct all contact tracing.

Please note that the test must be conducted—and the results received—before the school day begins, and positive individuals excluded/isolated per the District’s existing procedures.

The exposed person who remains in school through TTS must be quarantined outside of school instruction/academic periods (on weekends/holidays when the seven-day TTS period is still active, but no school test is required; after school/evenings; no community activities or extracurricular participation including clubs, sports, arts/performance activities, etc.).

Please note that people participating in TTS are allowed to continue to ride the school bus following all existing guidance, including required masking.