

To: EPS Staff
From: Ian Saltzman
Regarding: Test to Stay and updated flowchart

Good afternoon Team,

Many of you have been asking for the new COVID Flowchart since DOH changed their quarantine and isolation protocol. That flowchart is now available and [available on our website](#).

Also, this week we started the Test to Stay program for staff, and will be implementing for students starting Tuesday, February 1. Please read this document thoroughly for details on how Test to Stay works and how it will be implemented at your school.

What is Test to Stay?

The Test to Stay program is a voluntary, consented COVID testing program. It is designed for staff (and students) who are **unvaccinated or have not received their booster and are identified as a close contact** of an individual at a school or school-related event who tests positive for COVID. The goal of the program is to allow these staff to remain in school if they are symptom-free and test negative for COVID. This program is not yet available to staff who are exposed at home or during non-school events or gatherings.

We are participating in this program through a grant and the parameters and protocol are provided by the CDC and DOH.

How does it work?

The following is how Test to Stay will work for staff:

1. You are notified by the school or the Contact Tracing Team (CTT) that you have been identified as a close contact to a positive COVID case **while in school**.
 - a. If you are vaccinated and boosted and have no symptoms you can continue to stay at school and work.
 - b. If you are not fully boosted, you move to #2 below
 - c. If you are a close contact and symptomatic, you are “presumed positive.” You will need to get tested and report your results to the Contact Tracing Team (Covidtestresult@everettsd.org).
 - d. If you were notified you were a close contact outside of a school setting you are not eligible for Test to Stay (see FAQ below)
2. With your notification of exposure you are given a link to the [staff consent form](#) for Test to Stay.
3. If you are symptom-free, you stay at work until the Test to Stay team comes to your school for testing. Your first test needs to be within about 24 hours. See more below about the testing team rotations.

4. When the testing team arrives at your school, the admin or someone assigned by the admin needs to cover the staff person's position for 10 minutes so they can go to the testing location in your school (your admin will be assigning a location).
 - a. If your test is negative and you have no symptoms you can go back to your position.
 - b. If your test is positive you have to go home and isolate.
5. If your test was negative and you continue to work, you have to be tested again (steps 3 and 4) on day 5, 6, or 7 of your exposure.
 - a. Again, if your test is negative and you have no symptoms you can go back to your position.
 - b. And if your test is positive you have to go home and isolate.
6. Test to Stay requires two negative tests in the timeframe indicated above in order to not miss any school.

How does testing happen at my school

There are 2 testing teams with 2 people each. They will have a rotation schedule but it will be adjustable based on outbreaks and case counts. They predict being at each school for 20 – 40 minutes twice a week.

A sample case

Teacher Mary finds out Tuesday at 4 p.m. she is a close contact with a positive case of COVID at Monroe Elementary. The CTT contacts her and finds out she is not boosted. They tell her about Test to Stay and she would like to participate so they send her the consent form and tell her they plan on being at Monroe at 7:30 a.m. on Thursday. That is close enough to the window it will work for her first test. Mary has no symptoms so she teaches on Wednesday and Thursday at 7:30 a.m. shows up to get tested. If it is negative she continues to teach that day. If it is positive she must go home. In this case, it was negative so she continues to teach and finds out the testing team will be at Monroe again on Monday at 7:30 a.m. She shows up to be tested then, as it would be day 6 since her exposure. If she is negative again, and still no symptoms, she did not have to miss any work because of her close contact.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why is it only if they are exposed at school? What if staff who were exposed outside school want to be tested?

A: We are participating in Test to Stay as part of a grant with the DOH. The parameters call for testing those exposed in school because nationwide there is a shortage of test kits and the priority needs to be for students and staff exposed at school. The purpose is to keep them in school when they are exposed there. If you were exposed outside of school visit the [testing resource page](#) on our website to find other easy testing options.

Q: Who can get tested?

A: A staff member or student next week who was exposed at school or a school event, is not fully vaccinated or boosted, does not have symptoms and fills out the consent form.

Q: Can staff refuse to be tested?

A: Yes. Test to stay is not mandatory, and a signed [staff consent form](#) is required. If a non-boosted staff member is exposed at school and chooses not to be tested, they must quarantine for 5 full days after the last close contact and receive a negative COVID test to return the next day, or with no test, quarantine for 10 full days.

Q: Can families refuse to have their student tested?

A: Yes. Test to stay is not mandatory, and a signed [student consent form](#) is required by the parent/guardian of the student being tested. If a non-vaccinated student is exposed at school and chooses not to be tested, they must quarantine for 5 full days after the last close contact and receive a negative COVID test to return the following day, or with no test, quarantine for 10 full days.

Q: What if a vaccinated and boosted staff is exposed at school?

A: Staff who are fully vaccinated and boosted do not need to quarantine unless they start experiencing symptoms.

Q: Staff are required to be vaccinated so would anyone fit the parameter?

A: Staff are required to be vaccinated or have an approved exemption. This program would apply to those staff with an exemption, and those staff who have not yet received their booster.

Q: What happens if the testing team doesn't test them within 24 hours of exposure?

A: The testing team will know who needs to be tested at what school and will adjust their rotations as possible to meet the required testing times. It is not a black and white 24 hours, but an estimate time range to work within.

Q: What if I am teaching when the testing team arrives at my school?

A: We ask administration to provide coverage for that teacher to get tested. It will likely take 5 to 10 minutes for the testing process.

Q: Where do staff go to be tested as part of Test to Stay?

A: The testing location will be established at each school and communicated to staff and students by administration.

Q: How will the students be notified to show up for testing to be ready when the Test to Stay team arrives at their school?

A: Generally, schools will be on a twice-weekly schedule at a pre-planned time. Schools will be notified of the students/staff eligible for testing that day. An easy-to-use report has been designed to generate hall passes for students. The Test to Stay team will notify the Main Office when they are on their way to the school and students will be given a "Test to Stay" hall pass to go get tested.