



## Test to Stay and Flowchart January 31, 2022

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

Good afternoon families,

I hope you had a great weekend and are ready to start second semester with energy and excitement!

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

Also, this week we are implementing Test to Stay program for students. 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 students who are **unvaccinated or recovered from COVID within the last 90 days 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 students to remain in school if they are symptom-free and test negative for COVID. This program is not yet available to students 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 students:

1. You are notified by the school or the Contact Tracing Team (CTT) that your student has been identified as a close contact to a positive COVID case **while in school**.
  - a. Is your student vaccinated or had COVID in the last 90 days and have no symptoms you can continue to stay at school?
    - i. If yes, and they have no symptoms, they can continue to stay at school.
    - ii. If no, move to #2 below.
  - b. If they are a close contact and symptomatic, they are “presumed positive.” They will need to get tested and report your results to the Contact Tracing Team ([Covidtestresult@everettsd.org](mailto:Covidtestresult@everettsd.org)).
  - c. If they were notified they were a close contact outside of a school setting they are not eligible for Test to Stay (see FAQ below)
2. With notification of your child’s exposure you are given a link to the [student consent form](#) in a pdf, or [student consent form online](#) for Test to Stay.

3. If they are symptom-free, they stay at school until the Test to Stay team comes to their school for testing. Their 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 student's school, the office will send a hall pass to the student to go get tested.
  - a. If the test is negative and the student have no symptoms they can go back to class.
  - b. If the test is positive they have to go home and isolate.
5. If the test was negative and the student stays in school, they will be tested again (steps 3 and 4) on day 5, 6, or 7 of their exposure.
  - a. Again, if the test is negative and they have no symptoms they can go back to class.
  - b. And if the test is positive they 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.

We are pleased to offer this testing option in the hopes of having fewer students have to be out on quarantine when identified as a close contact. You can find more information on our [test to stay](#) website and there are Frequently Asked Questions below.

Stay safe and be well,

Dr. Ian B. Saltzman

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q: Why is it only if they are exposed at school? What if a student who was exposed outside school wants 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 student who was exposed at school or a school event, is not fully vaccinated or has recovered from a confirmed case of COVID in the last 90 days, does not have symptoms and fills out the consent form.

### **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 student is exposed at school?**

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

**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: Where do students 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.