

New Hartford Central School District Test-to-Stay (TTS) Plan

New Hartford Central School will participate in the Test-to-Stay initiative, in accordance with the local and state departments of health guidance, to allow students and staff who have been exposed to COVID-19 during the regular school day to avoid school exclusion (but not other restrictions of quarantine) by testing negative through the testing protocol described below.

- **Students and staff who are fully vaccinated or have fully recovered from a COVID-19 infection within the past 90 days are not eligible for TTS, as they are exempt from quarantine protocols unless they are symptomatic.**
- Test to Stay will only pertain to students and staff who have been exposed during the school day. Test to Stay **will not** pertain to High-Risk activity exposures or exposures outside of the school day, including leaving campus for lunch.
- The District will supply testing for students and staff for the Test-to-Stay program at no cost.
- The District will continue current contact tracing efforts for all positive student and staff cases during school-related activities. Close contacts will be identified per OCHD guidance and excluded from attending school until completion of the Test-to-Stay program or release from isolation or quarantine by the Oneida County Health Department (OCHD).
- Parents and staff will be required to sign an affirmation that they performed the test accurately and reported the results truthfully. Parents and Staff will have to sign and submit the negative test form to their building nurse prior to returning to school or work. The District will provide a video link via the District website as a tutorial if needed.
- Test to stay will **NOT** allow an individual to resume extracurricular activities pursuant with New York State Department of Health guidance dated January 13, 2022.
- The TTS participant or parent/guardian must agree to do the following for the individual to be eligible:
 - Conduct active monitoring (explicitly asking the individual about signs and symptoms of COVID-19) each day before and after school.
 - Immediately contact a healthcare provider and OCHD at 315-798-5431 if any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 develop.
 - Refrain from attending school or work if any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 develop in the individual or anyone in the home.

- If the participating individual tests positive or develops signs or symptoms of COVID-19 during school instruction, they must leave school immediately.
- ***Sign a consent form to allow testing to take place in the school.***

If someone is determined to have been exposed outside of school, TTS participants must remain at home. If there is an additional exposure during the Test to Stay quarantine period and it is determined to be a close contact the individual will begin a new five-day quarantine period.

In order to qualify for the test-to-stay program:

a) The exposure must have occurred in the school setting and while both the person with COVID-19 (index patient) and exposed person were consistently and properly masked.

b) The exposed person remains asymptomatic; if the exposed person who is allowed to remain in school through TTS develops symptoms, they must be immediately excluded from school per current NYS DOH guidance for schools.

c) The exposed person is tested a minimum of three times during the five-day period following exposure **unless recognition of the exposure is delayed or weekends or school breaks intervene**. See possible testing regimens below.

d) The five-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 regiments may include (see table):

| Minimum Testing Cadences | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Day of First Test | Day of Second Test | Day of Third Test |
| 0 | 2 or 3 | 4 or 5 |
| 1 | 2 or 3 | 4 or 5 |
| 2 | 4 | 5 |
| 3 | 4 or 5 | NA |
| 4 | 5 | NA |
| 5 | 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.

Below are some guidelines referring to the testing regiments chart above:

For the First Test:

- If the qualifying exposure becomes known during the school day, participants will be tested at school by the appropriate trained personnel. They must have a negative result and be asymptomatic before returning to class or riding a school bus home. If positive, the student will be sent home immediately and instructed to follow isolation protocols. Any positive result will need to be reported to OCHD promptly on the OCHD website: <https://ifweb.ocgov.net/Forms/COVIDTestResults>
- If the qualifying exposure becomes known outside of the school day, the participant must receive a negative viral test (e.g., rapid antigen, PCR) in the morning before boarding a school bus or coming to work. If positive, the student or staff member must remain home.

For the Second and Third Tests:

- They must receive the negative result prior to reporting to school/work. Participants are allowed to seek testing outside of school; however, the test must be an FDA authorized rapid antigen test under EUA.
- Prior to arriving at school, a COVID-19 screening form must be completed and submitted each day during the modified quarantine period.
- After day 5, testing will no longer be required if asymptomatic.

Students and staff members who participate in the TTS program are not cleared to return to school until the modified quarantine period and required tests have been completed.