

SARATOGA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

COVID-19 TEST TO STAY PROGRAM

Test to Stay (TTS) is a modified, test-based [quarantine protocol](#) for asymptomatic, preK-12 students who are not up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccinations and have been identified as having been in [close contact](#) with a student who was infectious with COVID-19 during instruction at school or during bus transportation to or from instruction.

The protocol allows the quarantined student to attend in-school instruction if they remain asymptomatic and test negative for COVID-19 on a set schedule. When not at school, the student must remain at their location of quarantine. New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) sets certain [restrictions](#) on TTS programs. Subsequently, students are not allowed to engage in school-sponsored extracurricular activities or sports.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has called [TTS](#) “a valuable tool in a layered prevention strategy that includes promoting vaccination of eligible students and staff, requiring everyone age 2 and older wear a mask inside schools and facilities, keeping at least 3 feet of distance between students, screening testing, ventilation, handwashing, and staying home when sick.”

Participating districts and private schools must have a written policy that includes the following minimum requirements:

- The close contact exposure(s) must have occurred during instruction at school or during bus transportation to or from instruction. Students whose exposures occurred outside of school instruction or bus transportation to or from instruction are not eligible.
- Participating students cannot participate in extracurricular activities, including but not limited to sports, even when sponsored by the district/private school.
- Parents/guardians must agree to keep their students at their location of quarantine when not at school.
- Participating students are allowed to ride their regular bus to and from school and must follow all existing guidance, including required masking.
- If the participating student develops [symptoms](#), they must be immediately excluded from school.
- Parents/guardians may administer school-supplied tests to their student and will not be charged for these tests. Test kits can be picked up in the main office of your child’s school.
- If for any reason the parents/guardians are unable to test at home on the designated day, they must notify the school before 8 AM. If you would like your student tested at school, you may call the school nurse and request an appointment.
- Tests must be performed in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions for use (IFU), which may impact the timing of additional tests.
- On days in-person learning is held, parents/guardians must agree to conduct and report the results of COVID-19 before the school day begins. If a test is required on a day that does not involve in-person learning, the parent/guardian must report by 1PM.

- SCPHS has created a [web portal](#) to assist parents/guardians with reporting and schools with surveillance and data management.
 - Students with a positive COVID-19 test result must **NOT** be sent to school.
 - Students with symptoms of COVID-19 must **NOT** be sent to school, regardless of the test result.
- CDC [recommends](#) that at least two tests be conducted between TTS enrollment and day 7, with the last test occurring on or between days 5 and 7. The date of the student’s last close contact is considered day 0.
 - Since, in general, over the counter COVID-19 rapid antigen test kit IFU call for performing a second test 24-48 hours after a negative result on asymptomatic individuals, some students may be tested more than others.

Testing Schedule

Quarantine Day of First Test (TTS Enrollment)	Quarantine Day(s) Additional Tests Are Required
0	2 and 4*
1	3 and 5**
2	4***
3	5
4	5
5	N/A**

*If the student remains without symptoms, they will be released from quarantine after day 5. While they will no longer be under public health supervision or required to undergo testing to attend in-person instruction, schools should remind parents that they should still follow the test kit IFU and administer a test on their child on day 5 or 6.

**If the student remains without symptoms, they will be released from quarantine after day 5. While they will no longer be under public health supervision or required to undergo testing to attend in-person instruction, schools should remind parents that they should still follow the test kit IFU and administer a test on their child on day 6 or 7.

***If the student remains without symptoms, they will be released from quarantine after day 5. While they will no longer be under public health supervision or required to undergo testing to attend in-person instruction, schools should remind parents that CDC recommends additional testing on days 5-7.