

October 28, 2021

Greetings Parents/Guardians:

WCUUSD is ready to roll out our Test to Stay program. We are happy to have multiple Covid-19 testing options available at all of our schools to continue our work to keep students in school this year! Please review the FAQ and reach out to Maria Melekos, Covid-19 Coordinator, at mmelekos@u32.org or 229-0553 x 1317 with any questions or concerns.

The three testing options we will offer are:

1. **Surveillance testing** every Monday. If your student is not yet enrolled, please visit the [CIC website](#) to register your student.
2. **Test to Stay**. Unvaccinated asymptomatic students may stay in school after an in-school exposure and take a rapid antigen test every morning in the Health Office.
3. **Response Testing**. Any student who is symptomatic at school may take a test at school in the Health Office before going home.

[Universal Consent for Response Testing for SU/SDs](#) is the link to register your student for Test to Stay and Response testing. **The consent takes less than 2 minutes to complete.** Due to time and staffing constraints, students must be registered for the program PRIOR to any in-school exposure or need to test in school. Please be proactive so we have consent when your student needs it. **If your unvaccinated student is not registered for the Test To Stay program, they will need to quarantine per State guidance after any in-school exposure.**

Please see below for some Frequently Asked Questions regarding Test to Stay. Please reach out if you have further questions or concerns.

Thank you,
Maria Melekos
WCUUSD COVID-19 Coordinator

FAQ Test to Stay Program

1. **What is Test to Stay (TTS)?** TTS is a program designed by the Vermont Agency of Education and the Department of Health to help keep unvaccinated students and staff in school after an in-school Covid-19 exposure.
2. **Who is eligible for Test to Stay?** Unvaccinated students and staff ages 5 and up are eligible for the Test to Stay program.
3. **Should vaccinated close contacts participate in Test to Stay?** No. Test to Stay is intended for unvaccinated close contacts only.

4. **Can students or staff with COVID-19 symptoms participate in Test to Stay?** Students or staff who are symptomatic should not attend school and may be sent home based on the clinical judgement by our School Nurses. Schools should refer to State guidance for symptomatic students to determine when students can return to school. *The Test to Stay program is not designed to allow symptomatic students to stay in school as there are other respiratory illnesses that should be prevented.*
5. **Does Test to Stay replace other school COVID-19 testing, such as PCR surveillance testing?** No. We will continue to participate in surveillance testing every Monday.
6. **How does TTS work?** If there is a positive Covid-19 case in one of our schools, we will contact trace to determine who has been exposed. The asymptomatic unvaccinated students and staff will not have to leave school, and will start TTS the next day. When they arrive at school, they will go to a designated location to be tested. We will be using rapid antigen tests to assess their contagion status each day for 7 days following exposure. If at any time they develop symptoms, they will need to have a PCR test and leave school. The rapid antigen tests take around 15-20 minutes, and if the test is negative the students/staff may remain in school for the day. If the rapid antigen test is positive, they will be considered positive for Covid-19 and must leave school and begin a 10 day quarantine.
7. **If a student or staff was exposed at home or in the community, can they participate in TTS?** No. TTS was designed to address in-school exposure only. Any unvaccinated student or staff that was exposed outside of school must stay home and quarantine according to the State guidelines - 14 days or 7 days with a negative PCR test.
8. **Are Test to Stay students allowed to ride to school on the bus?** The Health Department's recommendation is that students engaging in Test to Stay may ride the bus to school and be tested upon their arrival at school. Families should be aware that if their child is participating in Test to Stay they should be prepared to pick them up from school if they receive a positive antigen test and that if they receive a positive antigen test they will not be permitted to ride the bus home from school.
9. **Can my child perform their own rapid antigen test?** The State has approved individuals 15 years and older to perform their own tests for the TTS program. Students aged 5-14 will have the test performed by their School Nurse or other designated personnel.
10. **Previously, rapid antigen testing results have not been sufficient to allow students to return to school. What has changed?** A single negative antigen test is still not sufficient to prevent a symptomatic child from being sent home nor for an asymptomatic child to test out of quarantine. However, daily negative

antigen test results over 7 days are an accurate indicator of negative COVID-19 status such that students may continue to attend school.

- 11. My child feels sick at school and goes to the Health Office. They need to go home - can they get a Covid-19 test at school before they leave?** Yes. We call that Response Testing. School Nurses can test them with a rapid antigen test. If the result is positive, they are considered positive for Covid-19 and will need to go home and begin a 10 day quarantine. If the rapid test is negative, the School Nurse can perform a PCR test and send it off before the student leaves school.
- 12. I already registered my student for Surveillance testing. Can that consent cover TTS and Response Testing?** No. TTS and Response Testing requires a different consent.
- 13. Can I consent for TTS but not for Response Testing?** No. The consent for TTS and Response Testing is bundled together.
- 14. If I choose not to consent for my unvaccinated student, can they stay in school after an exposure?** No. Once an in-school exposure has been identified, any unvaccinated student who has not been consented for TTS and Response Testing will need to leave school immediately and quarantine for 14 days, or 7 days and then a negative PCR test.
- 15. May students participating in Test to Stay participate in school-sanctioned sports or other extracurricular activities after school?** Due to the recent release of new Winter sports guidance from the Agency of Education, the District is still working on the District protocol regarding this question. We will share more information when it is available.