

## Smithton R-VI School District

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October 21, 2021

Smithton Families,

It is hard to believe that we are at the end of our first term of the 2021-22 school year. We have had a busy and exciting year so far and are looking forward to a full year of in-person instruction. Throughout the pandemic we have been searching for ways to keep healthy students in school after being identified as close contacts. The Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) along with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) have recently offered new guidance regarding quarantine. This guidance is referred to as "Test to Stay" and allows an individual identified as a close contact (non-household) to test for COVID-19 in order to avoid quarantine.

At the regular meeting of the Smithton R-VI Board of Education on Monday, October 18, 2021 the Test to Stay option was approved. This option represents an amendment to the current plan and gives families the option to avoid quarantine. If you are interested in using this option the COVID Testing Consent Form can be found on the Health Services page on our website and must be completed and returned prior to any test for COVID-19 being administered in our health office. We are pleased to be able to offer this option as a way to keep healthy students in school and participating in activities. Eligibility of students and staff will be determined through cooperation with the Pettis County Health Department.

We appreciate everyone's cooperation as we continue to work through the challenges of our current situation. Please don't hesitate to contact our offices at (660) 343-5316 with any questions or concerns. Thank you for your interest in the Smithton R-VI School District.

Sincerely,

David R. Bray, Ed. S. Superintendent of Schools Smithton Administrative Team



