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Dear Maple Run Community,

I would like to take a moment to thank all of Maple Run staff for the dedication and extremely hard work they put in each day. We are committed to continuing to take the steps necessary to help everyone stay safe in school. We know that everyone is facing challenges due to the ongoing disruptions from students and staff asked to quarantine in response to positive cases in our school community. In addition, we know that having students quarantine is putting parents in a difficult situation with their work.

To keep as many students in school as possible, and reduce the number of unvaccinated students who must quarantine, we are developing a **Test-to-Stay** process. Please keep in mind we are still waiting for the details from the state of Vermont for these tests and will provide further communication once they are shared with us. We are hoping to staff the sites with local staff, but may need to ask the community for volunteers to assist in this effort.

The **Test-To-Stay** program will provide free COVID-19 testing tools for students and staff. These tools are intended to help identify COVID-19 cases early, and rapidly. They are also intended to help us respond to positive cases, while keeping as many kids in school as possible. Our aim is to limit disruptions to in-person learning and activities, while continuing to do our part to limit the spread of COVID-19.

All testing is voluntary and will require consent.

Below is a description of the testing types that our district will offer.

There are two kinds of tests that we will administer: PCR and antigen.

- A **PCR test** is a very accurate test done using a nasal swab. The swab is sent to a laboratory and results are generally available in 48 to 72 hours.
- An **antigen test** is usually very accurate as well, and also requires a nasal swab. We know that antigen tests are less sensitive than PCR tests, but when used over several consecutive days, as we plan to do, they are highly effective at identifying infectious individuals.

The big difference between the two tests is that our district can get the results of an antigen test on site. The results are usually available within 15 to 30 minutes.

Response Testing

Response testing includes both rapid antigen testing and PCR testing. Both of these tools may be used in response to a positive case within the school community.

Test Type 1: “Test-to-Stay” (TTS) antigen testing:

When a student in our school tests positive for COVID-19, we will begin our *Test-to-Stay* program. *Test-to-Stay* is for unvaccinated students and staff who are close contacts of an individual who tested

positive. TTS allows students to remain in school and participate in on-campus, school-sponsored activities, while receiving daily tests for up to 7 days.

- Antigen testing takes place each of the 7 days, before school, between 6:30 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. We are currently working on a centralized location in St. Albans for SATEC, SACS, and BFA/NCTC. Fairfield Center School will conduct this test on-site. Individuals who test negative may attend school.
- Only unvaccinated students, ages 5 and up, will participate.
- Students in TTS may only attend school and on-campus, school-sponsored activities that do not involve students from another school campus. Otherwise, they are expected to quarantine (meaning they should not participate in other activities, e.g., go to the grocery store, or spend time with friends and others outside of the household).
- If you do not consent to participate in TTS, in order to return to school and other activities, your child must quarantine for 14 days, or have a negative PCR test at day 7 or later.

Test Type 2: In-School PCR Testing

We may administer in-school PCR response tests in the following situations:

- Testing students/staff with symptoms in attendance at school.

Test Type 3: Take Home PCR Testing

These test kits are available at the school and are for use at home. Families will register directly using the Binx system and should alert the school to the testing outcome (positive or negative). Kits should be taken to a UPS site *the same day they are used*. We may use them in the following situations:

- Students or staff with symptoms
- Close contacts of COVID-19 cases

Test Type 4: Surveillance Testing

We will no longer be conducting surveillance testing once Test Types 1 through 3 are implemented. We are currently conducting weekly PCR testing at school for the following individuals:

- Vaccinated or unvaccinated individuals
- Students and staff without symptoms

Please note that sharing of information about your child will only be done for public health purposes, and in accordance with applicable law and policies protecting student privacy and the security of your child's data.

To learn more about the COVID-19 testing options, please visit

<https://education.vermont.gov/covid19/testing>.

We are extremely grateful to our committed families and staff. You continue to show great flexibility and resilience as we work together to contain the spread of this virus. If you have questions regarding the COVID-19 Testing Program, please reach out to the district's central office.

Sincerely,



Bill Kimball
Superintendent

CDC recommends everyone 12 years and older get a COVID-19 vaccine to help protect against COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective, and free. Getting vaccinated prevents severe illness, hospitalizations, and death. Visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines) to find vaccination providers near you.