

# Central District #51 Test to Stay Q&A

## What is the Test to Stay Protocol?

The Test to Stay Protocol is an IDPH approved voluntary COVID-19 testing option that allows unvaccinated asymptomatic students and staff to continue in-person learning as safely as possible after exposure to a COVID-19 positive individual while at school. Students may also participate in extracurricular activities and sporting practices, but they may not participate in sporting competitions during the testing period. During the 14-day testing/observation period, students and staff who remain asymptomatic and test negative may continue in-person learning and activities.

## Who can use Test to Stay?

Students and staff who are unvaccinated and asymptomatic that are exposed to a positive COVID-19 individual at school may choose the Test to Stay Protocol option. Test to Stay is only available to close contacts identified in the school environment. Parents must complete the Test to Stay Consent Form, in Skyward Family Access prior to the school testing their student.

## How does the testing work?

Students and staff who opt into the Test to Stay Protocol using the online consent form will report to the nurse's office at their designated school on days 1, 3, 5, and 7 after their last exposure date for administration of the COVID-19 BinaxNOW rapid antigen test (nasal swab). If testing days are disrupted by a weekend or holiday, testing will resume on the first school day back in session.

## Is there a cost to have testing performed at the school?

There is no cost to families to participate in testing.

## What if a student does not want to participate in the Test to Stay Protocol after a COVID-19 exposure?

Unvaccinated students that are considered a close contact to a COVID-19 positive individual at school who choose not to use the Test to Stay Protocol will be subject to the typical 10-day healthy at home quarantine per IDPH & Tazewell County Health Department (TCHD) guidelines.

## What happens if a student or staff member tests positive through the routine testing?

If at any time the student or staff member tests positive or becomes symptomatic, they will be sent home immediately to isolate, and TCHD will be notified. The individual will not be allowed to return to school until they have completed their quarantine as instructed by TCHD. Contact tracing will be initiated.

## Will there be a time that the Test to Stay Protocol is not an option?

When a student or staff member is a close contact to a COVID-19 positive individual from outside of the school environment, the Test to Stay Protocol is not an option. Students or staff members who have been exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual and have developed symptoms must stay home and cannot be tested at school. TCHD has the authority to assess high-risk exposures and order a traditional quarantine without the option for Test to Stay. If circumstances in the community or school district change, the Test to Stay Protocol may be suspended by the state or county health department.

## Who will see my student's test results?

Testing will be completed and interpreted by our school nurses. Results will be available to any employees of Central District #51 with a legitimate educational interest, consistent with the *Illinois School Student Records Act*. Additionally, our district will share the following delineated information to the parties described below in the manner described below:

- Central District #51 will share positive and negative test results, student name, student date of birth, and student address and parent/guardian telephone number with the Illinois Department of Public Health via electronic transmission of this information using the Red Cap online reporting site. The purpose of this disclosure is to facilitate contact tracing and tracking of test usage.
- Central District #51 will share positive and negative test results, student name, student date of birth, and student address with the Tazewell County Health Department as required. The purpose of this disclosure is to facilitate contact tracing and to assist the local health department in monitoring community transmission metrics.
- All positive and negative test results will also be shared with the student's parent/guardian for the purpose of seeking additional medical treatment if necessary.