

USD 444 COVID-19 Test to Stay in school protocol and procedures (Revised 01-18-2022)

COVID-19 rapid antigen testing will continue to be available as an option for all students and staff Pre-K-12 for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.

Per CDC recommendations viral testing strategies, in partnership with schools, should be part of a comprehensive prevention approach. Testing should not be used alone, but in combination with other prevention to reduce risk of transmission in schools. When schools implement testing combined with prevention strategies, they can detect new cases to prevent outbreaks, reduce the risk of further transmission, and protect students, teachers, and staff from COVID-19. There are many public schools that are offering optional testing.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html> - anchor\_1616080181070%29

- Staff or Student reports they are **positive for COVID-19** will isolate from school **5 days** from symptom onset or positive test. May return to school on day **6** if **asymptomatic**. Staff/Student will wear a mask day 6-10 (**see flowchart**) Staff/Student who are household contacts and asymptomatic can continue to be in school for their required 5 day “modified quarantine.” Staff/Student will mask day 1-10. Staff/Student will be tested to stay in school if symptoms develop. (**see flowchart**) Students may participate in activities **masked**, regardless of vaccination status.
- It is the responsibility of the parent/legal guardian to complete the consent and HIPPA form prior to the COVID test. Forms can be emailed to the school and time stamped or signed in person prior to testing.
- Parents/legal guardians are **required** to be present during the test Pre-K-6 and encouraged to be present for 7-12.

“Test to Stay” Procedure for **close contacts**:

- This is a nasal (not nasopharyngeal) rapid antigen test. Testing will be done at 8:15 am at WES & LR. At Windom, testing will be done while the staff or student stays in the vehicle in the parking spaces outside the main entrance. At Little River, testing will be done while staff or students stay in the vehicle in the circle

drive by the main entrance . Staff or students will remain in their vehicle for **15 minutes** while waiting for test results. Instructions will be given according to results. In inclement weather, a designated area will be established at both locations.

- **If a close contact chooses to not be tested daily, they will not be allowed to attend school and will be quarantined at home for 10 days after exposure. They may return to school on the 11th day.**
- **If a staff or student becomes symptomatic while at school, they will **not be tested**. They will need to be tested at the Rice County Health Department or other testing sites and follow guidelines for the Health Department.**

Please continue to be mindful of symptoms and **DO NOT** send your student to school if they're experiencing any of the following symptoms: fever (100.4 or higher), new loss of taste or smell, shortness of breath, diarrhea, vomiting, congestion/runny nose, muscle or body aches, fatigue, headache, sore throat, cough or chills.

We want to do our best to keep students and staff in a safe learning environment. Thanks for doing your part in being patient and attentive. We look forward to a safe and healthy 2021-2022 school year! If you have questions or concerns let us know.