



West Seneca Central School District Test to Stay (TTS) Plan

This written plan is in place to implement the New York State Department of Health and Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) guidance for Test to Stay (TTS) program in schools. This plan will be available for ECDOH review upon request.

This plan applies to West Seneca Central School District students and staff and is intended to avoid school exclusion (but not other restrictions of quarantine) of non-vaccinated, asymptomatic individuals determined to be “school-based close contacts” who are otherwise subject to quarantine following exposure to COVID-19. The Test to Stay program is only for participation for in-person instruction and does not include any extracurricular activities.

In order for an individual to be permitted to remain in school using TTS, **all** of the following requirements must be met:

1. **Qualifying School Exposure:** The exposure must have occurred in the school setting and while both the person that tested positive with COVID-19 (index person) and exposed person were consistently in close proximity. The determination whether this requirement has been met will be made by the designated District/school staff member(s), such as the school nurse.
2. **Asymptomatic:** The exposed person must remain asymptomatic. If the exposed person who is allowed to remain in school through TTS develops symptoms, the student will be immediately excluded from school per current District/school guidance. If at any point during this period the person develops symptoms, they must remain home and not come to school. Please contact the person’s physician and follow all necessary precautions for potential COVID-19 infection. A person **must remain asymptomatic to remain in school.**
3. **Required Minimum Testing Sequence:** The exposed person must be tested a minimum of two times during the five-day period following exposure, unless recognition of the exposure is delayed or weekends or school breaks intervene. *The five-day period is measured in calendar days in which the last date of exposure is considered Day 0. The first test will be done as soon as possible after exposure is identified (i.e., the first day the student is in school after identified exposure). Additional testing must occur on Day 5.

The required minimum testing regimen will be as follows:

Minimum Testing Cadences		
Day of First Test	Day of Second Test	Additional Testing
Day 1	Day 5	Not Required
Day 1	Day 5	Day 2, 3, 5 (if desired)

* Day 0 is the date of identification as close contact. Day 1 is the following day.

Adjustments must be made to account for date of exposure and weekends/other non-school days, in which case a test must be conducted on the first school day back and continue thereafter according to the above.

4. **Timing of Test and Results:** Tests must be conducted—and the results received—before the student starts school and at the beginning of the school day. Positive individuals must be excluded from school and isolated per existing procedures. Parents/guardians will be informed of positive test results for identified students. Students will await pick-up in the designated isolation room. All NYS reporting requirements will be adhered to as directed by NYSDOH and ECDOH.
5. **Use of At-Home / Over-the-Counter Tests:** At home rapid antigen tests cannot be used for the Test to Stay program. All testing must occur at a school site administered by a trained professional.

Please Note: All participants of the Test to Stay program must provide written consent to the District. All parents/guardians must agree to the student's participation in TTS, must agree to the conditions outlined above, and must agree to District-administered testing for the purposes of the Test to Stay program.

Equity Considerations:

All testing will be provided to families free of charge under the TTS Plan. Students may access the Test to Stay program at their West Seneca School prior to the start of the school day. Please note that people participating in TTS are allowed to continue to ride the school bus following all existing guidance, including required masking. However, it is strongly recommended that parents/guardians provide personal transportation for students in TTS.

Protocols for Follow-Up on Positive Test Results:

Any student who tests positive during the Test to Stay program will be provided with resources regarding isolation and quarantine guidelines from the child's school and/or the ECDOH.

Continued Quarantine Requirements:

In accordance with New York State Department of Health and ECDOH requirements, an exposed person who is allowed to remain in school through TTS must quarantine outside of school instruction/academic periods (on weekends/holidays and during the five-day TTS period is still active, but no school test is required; after school/evenings; no community activities or extracurricular participation including clubs, sports, arts/performance activities, etc.).