

## Test to Stay (TTS) - Frequently Asked Questions

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### What is Test to Stay?

Test to Stay (TTS) is a rigorous COVID-19 testing program which allows individuals, who have been identified as close contacts and would normally be required to quarantine for 10 days at home, to continue attending school and work in-person.

TTS provides testing on the school nights of the first five days of an individual's assigned quarantine period and allows participants to attend school and/or work throughout the full 10-day quarantine period, assuming negative test results. TTS participants take an RPS provided COVID-19 test on assigned school nights via an virtual chat with a proctor. The results are uploaded to a secure platform. If the individual tests negative at night and remains symptom-free, they can attend work/school the next day. If an individual tests positive during this period, they shift immediately to the RPS isolation protocol.

### Eligibility

#### Who is eligible for TTS?

Any RPS student or staff member who is a confirmed close contact and needs to quarantine (as identified by the nurse and/or member of the RPS COVID team) is eligible for TTS. RPS partners who work with RPS daily (for example, extended day staff or daily tutors) are also eligible.

TTS participants must be able to correctly and consistently wear a mask throughout the school day. Therefore, preschool students, some students with special needs, and other selected students may not be eligible for TTS. The ability to correctly and consistently wear a mask will be determined by the school nurse/school-based staff.

#### Can TTS be used for COVID-19 exposures that are identified outside of RPS?

Yes. If someone is identified as a close contact who needs to quarantine for a *community exposure* (so not being exposed to an RPS student or staff member), they are still eligible for TTS.

#### How does someone let RPS know they want to participate in TTS?

After each notification of a positive case, RPS school nurses and/or the COVID team contact trace and identify close contacts. Those close contacts are called. During that conversation, the opportunity to participate in TTS will be offered. A verbal agreement by a parent/legal guardian to have their student participate in TTS initiates participation and is also consent for the nightly testing results to be shared with RPS.

#### Does someone have to participate in TTS?

No. However, if a family does not opt into TTS for their child, a 10-day quarantine is required. A negative test is not required to return after the 10-day quarantine period. Staff cannot opt out of TTS except in unique, approved circumstances.

### Program Details

**How long does someone test in TTS?**

The school nurse will determine the date of the individual's exposure. This will be considered Day 0. Individuals will take a test on the school nights of Days 0-5. However, if Day 5 falls on a non-school night, the individual must take a final test on the next school night.

**Who provides the tests for TTS?**

An RPS nurse will provide the participant with all the at-home tests needed for TTS. Tests are free. Tests are packaged two to a box and will be distributed every 2 school days as needed (so participants need to store them safely). The number of boxes someone will receive is based on the number of school nights in the first 5 days of the quarantine period. Along with their tests, participants receive a flier with how to access the testing site and other important information.

**How does the testing protocol work at home?**

Participants access the testing site via a QR reader (any cell phone camera) or at [schools.provenpass.com](https://schools.provenpass.com). Participants first watch a brief video which shows them through how to take the test. Then, they will take the test guided by a virtual proctor. When the results are available (it takes about 10 minutes for the results to show) they show the test to the virtual proctor who records and uploads the results into a secure platform for RPS to review.

**Can students take the tests at school?**

No. Tests can only be taken at home via the virtual proctor.

**When and where should someone take the test?**

Testing should be done at home, in the afternoon/evening in preparation to go to school or work the next day (so only on school nights). Testing takes about 15 minutes and the participant needs to be able to engage via a phone or computer with a proctor during that time. The proctor is available in the afternoon after school and is available until 10:30pm.

**How does the virtual proctor validate who is taking the test?**

Each test has a special QR code or weblink. In addition, participants are asked for their name, date of birth, and a school/location code which will be provided by the nurse.

**What does someone do if they forget their school/location code?**

Don't worry - the school nurse can provide it again. Still take the test that night without it. The results will be linked to your name and birthday.

**Can I take the test without the virtual proctor and send RPS a picture of the results?**

No. All tests must be taken with the virtual proctor and results recorded before the next school day. If the virtual proctor is not used, the participant will be removed from the TTS program and have to complete a 10-day quarantine period (TTS days will count towards those 10 days).

**What does someone do if their results are positive?**

If the results are positive, the individual should immediately begin their isolation period and not go to school/work the next day. They should contact their school principal/supervisor to let them know (and the school nurse will also be able to see the results the next day). A nurse or member of the COVID team will reach out and follow the isolation protocol for a positive individual.

**What does someone do if their results are negative?**

If the results are negative the individual should go to school or work the next day.

**What if someone's test is negative at night but they wake up in the morning with symptoms?**

If someone has COVID-19 related symptoms in the morning they should not go to school/work that day. They should rest and take that day's test that evening through the regular TTS protocol. If it is negative (but they still have symptoms, reassess in the morning – they may have the flu and need to stay home for other reason). If it is positive that evening, the individual will pivot to the isolation protocol

**What happens if someone in TTS starts to experience symptoms during the school/work day?**

Students should immediately report their symptoms to their teacher/nurse and tell them they are a TTS participant. Students will wait in the Supportive Care room for a caregiver to pick them up from school and should take a test when they get home. Staff members should notify their supervisor and leave the building and take a test at home.

**How does the school nurse see the results?**

The virtual proctor records the results in a secure platform. The school nurse has access to the platform and checks each morning to see if the participant has tested positive or negative and validates who came to school/work and who did not.

**What if someone who had positive results comes to school/work the next day?**

Do not come to school/work with a positive result. If this happens, the student will immediately be placed in the Supportive Care room and a caregiver will need to pick them up. A staff member will be sent home. Appropriate contact tracing would then occur.

**What happens if someone forgets to take the test one of the assigned nights?**

If an individual does not follow the TTS protocol accurately, they will no longer be able to participate and must finish out a 10-day quarantine at home (TTS days will count towards those 10 days). A negative test is not required to return after the 10-day quarantine period.

**How is mask wearing a part of TTS?**

RPS has a mask mandate for all students, staff, and partners, so masks must be worn at all times (except when eating and drinking) by TTS participants while at school, including outside during recess or during outdoor activities. If participants do not adhere to strict mask wearing they will be removed from the program and must complete the 10-day quarantine at home. Participants must also wear their mask during the full 10 days of their quarantine period even when not at RPS.

**Other Information**

**Can individuals participate in school-based after school activities during the 5-day TTS period?**

Yes. Students can participate in school-based after school activities as long as they consistently and correctly wear a mask.

**Can individuals play RPS sports during the 5-day TTS period?**

No. Individuals cannot participate in RPS sports during the 5-day testing period. They can begin sports again after their final TTS test comes back negative.

**Can individuals do other outside of school activities during the TTS period (like go to a birthday party)?**

No. Individuals should still quarantine at home and should not participate in non-school related activities (after school/on weekends) for the full 10-day quarantine period. TTS allows individuals to engage in school/work because of RPS's rigorous mitigation strategies.

**Is TTS safe for the other people in the school/work location?**

Yes. The CDC has endorsed TTS. The Virginia Department of Health supports TTS in school divisions with rigorous layered mitigation strategies like RPS.

**Does someone have to sign any waivers or consent forms to participate in TTS?**

No. Because tests are taken at home, RPS does not need participants to sign a waiver. Participation in the program also means that participants agree that their test results will be shared with RPS. Families do not have to participate in TTS if they do not wish to.

**Who do I contact if I have additional questions?**

Please contact your school nurse or email [COVIDrps@rvaschools.net](mailto:COVIDrps@rvaschools.net).