

## SUBJECT: TEST TO STAY AND ISOLATION/QUARANTINE GUIDANCE

The William Floyd Union Free School District has recently experienced drastic staff shortages and student absenteeism based on the implementation of previous NYSDOH guidance related to the need to quarantine if an individual was exposed as a close contact who tested positive for Covid-19. The original guidance provided by the New York State Department of Health (“NYSDOH”) required unvaccinated close contacts of people who tested positive for COVID-19 to be excluded from school and quarantined. After careful review, the Center for Disease Control (“CDC”) has released two studies showing the impact of Test to Stay (“TTS”). With this new data, the NYSDOH supports TTS as a strategy that allows **asymptomatic unvaccinated school-based contacts** (e.g., students, teachers, and school staff) **to avoid school exclusion** (but not other restrictions to quarantine) **by testing negative through serial testing using rapid NAAT or Antigen test during the seven-day period following exposure.**

Based on the most recent DOH guidance, the District has determined that TTS is an important tool that will allow our schools to remain open for instruction, while also ensuring the health and safety of all individuals involved. Accordingly, for as long as such practice is permitted pursuant to applicable DOH guidance, TTS will be implemented in accordance with the following guidelines to the extent they are consistent with applicable DOH guidance:

- The TTS protocol shall apply to any individual who would otherwise have had to quarantine pursuant to applicable DOH guidance as a close contact of someone who tested positive for Covid-19.
- The exposure must have occurred in the school setting and while both the person with COVID-19 (index patient) and exposed person were consistently and properly masked.
- The exposed person remains asymptomatic; if the exposed person who is allowed to remain in school through TTS develops symptoms, they must be immediately excluded from school per current school guidance.
- The exposed is tested a minimum of **three times during a 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 where the last exposure is considered day 0. The first test should be done as soon as possible after exposure is identified (i.e., the first day the student is in school after the identified exposure).
- The **testing cadences will be as follow: Day of first test - day 1** (as soon as possible after being identified as a close contact), **Day of second test – day 3 or 4** (two or three days after first test), **Day of third test - day 5** (last day of testing cycle).
- In the interest of equity, tests and test analysis will be at no financial cost to any family.

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Non-Instructional/Business  
Operations

- Tests will be conducted and the results received before the school day begins and ends, and positive individuals will be excluded/isolated per existing procedures.
- To ensure that the test is done correctly, on the correct person, and in accordance with the test manufacturer's instructions, the District may either choose to conduct the tests on-site, or, if the District chooses to accept at-home antigen tests, may require those individuals (or their legal guardian) who are participating in the TTS protocols, to affirm one or more of the following in writing (1) the name of the individual tested, (2) the date and time the test was administered, (3) the type of test and brand name used, (4) to submit the actual test card utilized, (5) to complete a form attesting that the test was conducted in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions; (6) to attest that the results were negative, and (7) such other information as the District may need to collect in order to remain in compliance with all applicable DOH guidance regarding TTS protocols.
- The exposed person who is allowed to remain in school through TTS must be quarantined outside of school instruction/academic periods (e.g., on weekends/holidays during the 5-day TTS period; after school/evenings; no community activities or extracurricular participation including clubs, sports, arts performances, etc.).
- Individuals participating in TTS shall be allowed to ride the bus provided that they follow all applicable guidance regarding masking.

Adopted: 1/11/2022