

Parental Consent for Student Participation in COVID-19 Test-to-Stay Program

On October 27, 2021, the New York State Department of Health sent out [Updated Testing and Quarantine Supplemental Information](#) for local health departments, which included a “Test to Stay” (“TTS”) initiative that counties could choose to opt into on an individualized basis. On October 28, 2021, the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health (“DBCH”) sent out a Memorandum to all school districts within the County which included DBCH’s intention to permit TTS protocols to be utilized in the schools, subject to availability of resources.

Under the TTS program, unvaccinated individuals who are close contacts of individuals with COVID-19 will be permitted to remain in school after being designated as a close contact so long as they are tested daily on each school day for seven days after exposure, using a rapid antigen test or a rapid NAAT test. Please note that while this initiative would permit students who would otherwise be excluded from school as close contacts to remain in school subject to the receipt of daily negative COVID-19 tests consistent with the above, it does not otherwise negate quarantine requirements.

According to the NYSDOH’s October 27, 2021 guidance, unvaccinated individuals who are **close contacts of individuals with COVID-19 are allowed to remain in school through TTS must still be quarantined outside of school instruction/academic periods** (on weekends/holidays when the seven-day TTS period is still active, but no school test is required; afterschool/evenings; must not undertake community activities or extracurricular participation including clubs, sports, arts/performance activities, etc.).

The District is pleased to communicate that it will be participating in the TTS initiative to permit unvaccinated students who are close contacts of a COVID-19 positive individual to remain in school subject to the above protocols. Parents/legal guardians who wish to participate in this program must consent to testing for this purpose as a condition precedent to student participation. Participation is purely voluntary, and subject to continued availability of tests for the TTS initiative.

The District will be using trained District staff to collect specimens for this TTS initiative. The Abbott BinaxNOW™ COVID-19 Ag Card is a rapid antigen test (with results in 15 minutes) which will be offered to students whose parents/legal guardians consent to their participation in the TTS program. If you are interested in opting into rapid antigen COVID-19 TTS program for your student, please fill out the form below and return it to your student’s school nurse or email to j.funk@ppcsd.org, a.mccauley@ppcsd.org or s.prezzano@ppcsd.org.

Student’s Full Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Grade: _____

Consent: Please check the box below to consent to the above-referenced student participating in COVID-19 screening testing:

- I consent to participate in the TTS initiative described above.

- I understand that the test results and other info may be disclosed as required/permitted by law to the State and/or local health departments.
- I understand the school will notify me of the negative results of the test by a letter sent home. If the test is positive for COVID-19 I will be notified by phone call.
- I understand that a close contact who is permitted to remain in school through TTS must continue to quarantine during other timeframes when they are not in school and that they must still be quarantined outside of school instruction/academic periods (on weekends/holidays when the seven-day TTS period is still active; afterschool/evenings; and that no community activities or extracurricular participation including clubs, sports, arts/performance activities, etc. is permitted during the TTS period).

Yes, I give my permission to collect a sample from my child and conduct COVID-19 testing for this TTS initiative.

Print Name: _____ **Signature:** _____

Date: _____

***NOTE:** If a student participating in TTS tests positive for COVID-19, or otherwise develops symptoms consistent with COVID-19, they must be excluded from school consistent with current guidance, until cleared to return by the local health department.*