

WHITEHALL RAILROADERS Test to Stay (TTS) Protocol



As supported in the December 23, 2021 “Revised Updated Testing and Quarantine Supplemental Information to the “Interim NYSDOH Guidance for Classroom Instruction in P-12 Schools During the 2021-2022 Academic Year”” guidance memo, the Whitehall Central School District will be implementing the “Test to Stay” (TTS) initiative.

Eligibility

- Only those students, faculty, or staff who have been identified as a close-contact due to a **school-setting exposure** are eligible to participate;
- Both, the COVID positive individual (*index patient*) and the exposed person, must have been determined that they were consistently and properly masked while in the school building;
- The exposed person is asymptomatic and remains asymptomatic throughout the TTS period; (Must NOT have symptoms)
- If the exposed person develops any symptoms, they will be excluded from attending school per the current school guidance and the TTS process will be stopped;
- The exposed person is allowed to remain in school and ride the school bus, but is prohibited from attending any after-school events, and participating in any extra-curricular activities, including: clubs and interscholastic athletics.

Testing

- The exposed person will be tested a minimum of three times (3) during a seven (7) day period following the school-based exposure, unless recognition of the exposure is delayed or a weekend or period of school break intervenes.
- The specific dates of testing will be determined by the school nurse.
- If the exposed person is unable to adhere to the testing dates, they must be excluded from school.
- The seven-day period is measured in calendar days where the date of exposure is considered “Day 0”.
- The first test shall be conducted as soon as possible after the exposure is identified. The table below is a guide for the testing schedule and may be adjusted to account for weekends, holidays, and other non-school days. The district reserves the right to require additional testing at our discretion

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Minimum (TTS) Schedule		
Day of First Test	Day of Second Test	Day of Third Test
0	2 or 3	5, 6, or 7
1	3	5, 6, or 7
2	4	5, 6, or 7
3	5, 6, or 7	N/A
4	5, 6, or 7	N/A
5	6 or 7	N/A
6	N/A	N/A
7	N/A	N/A

- Testing will be conducted at the district by the building nurse or other trained staff member in the students respective building. Those individuals required to be tested will report to the isolation room upon arrival at school.
- If the test result is positive, the student will be isolated and required to return home. The district will then contact the Washington County Department of Health to inform them of the positive and assist with any school-related contact-tracing requirements.
- Testing completed at home is not permissible for use in the TTS program.
- Test to Stay will be available only for as long as the district is provided with appropriate testing supplies.
- Written parental permission to participate in Test to Stay (TTS) protocol must be provided by the parent or guardian.