

Montgomery County Office of Public Health (MCOPH)

Test to Stay Guidance for K-12 School Entities

Test to Stay guidance applies only to the following individuals: staff who HAVE their primary vaccine series and have NOT received a booster if eligible, and who were exposed to COVID-19 by a household member (household exposure).

Test to Stay (TTS) is a tool in a layered COVID-19 prevention strategy that allows individuals who are identified allows staff members who have received their primary series of COVID vaccine but have not received a booster dose, who are identified as a household contact to a case of COVID-19, AND who remain asymptomatic to continue to attend school while committing to a daily testing cadence. Individuals who develop symptoms of COVID-19 or test positive while participating in TTS are directed to isolate immediately. Individuals who do not participate in TTS will be required to quarantine for 5 days from the time of their last exposure in accordance with standard requirements from PADOH.

TTS for ONLY for staff members who have completed their primary vaccine series and has not receive a booster if eligible, and that were exposed to COVID-19 by a household member(household exposure). All staff must meet eligibility requirements outlined below to enroll in TTS. Please see [MCOPH Mask to Stay Guidance](#) for staff and/or students who had in-school or community exposures.

<p>Promotion of COVID-19 Vaccinations</p>	<p>A growing body of evidence suggests that people who have completed the primary series (and a booster when eligible) are at substantially reduced risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 compared with people who are not vaccinated.</p> <p>Schools can promote vaccinations among teachers, staff, families, and eligible students by providing information about COVID-19 vaccination, encouraging vaccine trust and confidence, and establishing supportive policies and practices that make getting vaccinated as easy and convenient as possible.</p>
<p>Definitions</p>	<p>Isolation: Separation of an individual with confirmed and suspected COVID-19 infection from those who are not infected. At this time MCOPH follows requirements for isolation provided by Center for Disease Control (CDC): https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html</p> <p>Standard Quarantine: Quarantine is used to keep someone who might have been exposed to COVID-19 away from others. Quarantine helps prevent the spread of disease that can occur before a person knows they are sick or if they are infected with the virus without feeling symptoms. People in quarantine should stay home, separate themselves from others, and monitor their health. MCOPH follows requirements for quarantine provided by Center for Disease Control (CDC): https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html</p>

	<p>Following CDC guidance, MCOPH is adopting TTS for the below individuals who are required to quarantine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals age 18 or older who have completed the primary series of recommended vaccine, but have not yet received a recommended booster shot when eligible. • Individuals age 18 and older who have received the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine (completing the primary series) and have not yet received a recommended booster shot when eligible. <p>The following individuals are required to quarantine and are not eligible for TTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals who are not vaccinated or have not yet completed a primary vaccine series. <p>For more information on when individuals are to date with COVID-19 vaccination, visit CDC Stay Up to Date with Your Vaccines</p> <p>Close Contact: Individual who has been within 6 feet of an individual with COVID-19 for at least 15 consecutive minutes.</p> <p><i>Exemption:</i> In the K-12 indoor classroom setting or a structured outdoor setting where mask use can be observed, the close contact definition excludes students only who were between 3 to 6 feet away from an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or clinically compatible illness where both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting masks).</p>
<p>Staff Eligibility Requirements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified as a close contact exposed in the <u>household setting</u>. • Completed the primary series of recommended vaccine, but have not yet received a recommended booster shot when eligible. • Monitor for symptoms daily and remain asymptomatic. • Wear mask at all times when around others inside their home or in public, including the school setting. An individual who has a mask exemption will not qualify for TTS and will have to complete standard COVID-19 quarantine. For TTS, a face shield is not acceptable. <i>Masks can be removed briefly for eating and drinking, individuals should maintain 6 ft. of social distancing while eating or drinking if feasible.</i> • Maintain the recommended distance of 6 feet from students, teachers, and staff. • Individual consents to receive and participate in antigen testing provided in accordance TTS antigen testing cadence. Complete standard quarantine (as described in definitions) outside of the school setting.
<p>TTS Antigen Testing Cadence</p>	<p>Staff should be tested every in-person school day during their quarantine period. The quarantine period is at least 5 days (day 0 through day 5) after their last contact with a household contact who has COVID-19.</p> <p><u>If the positive household member is Unable to Isolate:</u> The staff member will be required to be tested every in-school day for 5 days after the last day of exposure to the household contact. The quarantine period takes into</p>

	<p>consideration the positive household member’s 5 days of isolation and the close contact’s 5 day quarantine period. If the positive household member continues to test positive towards the end of the 5 days of isolation, the quarantine period will take into consideration the positive household member’s 10 days of isolation and the close contact 5 days of quarantine.</p> <p><u>If the positive household member is Able to Isolate:</u> The staff member would be required to be tested every in-person school day for 5 days after the last day of exposure to the household contact.</p> <p>Testing should be completed prior to the start of the school day and interaction with students.</p> <p>The individual will no longer be able to participate in TTS if they test positive or become symptomatic. These individuals should be immediately isolated and sent home.</p>
Internal Tracking System	<p>All schools/districts should follow MCOPH standards for reporting positive cases and/or close contacts to our office. Schools/Districts should be prepared to provide MCOPH with additional information pertaining to participants in the MTS or TTS program if requested.</p>

References:

Center for Disease Control and Prevention, COVID-19 Community Levels, Updated February 25, 2022, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html>

Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Quarantine and Isolation, Updated January 27, 2022, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html>

Center for Disease Control and Prevention, What We Know About Quarantine and Isolation, Updated February 25, 2022, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine-isolation-background.html>

COVID-19 Testing to Sustain in –Person Instruction and Extracurricular Activities in High Schools-Utah, November 2020-March 2021, <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7021e2.htm>

Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 for School Administrators, Testing and Screening, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Updated January 13, 2022, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/admin-faq.html>

Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention K-12 Schools, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Updated January 13, 2022, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education, Missouri School COVID-19 Operating Guidance, Revised October 8, 2021, <https://dese.mo.gov/media/pdf/missouri-school-reopening-operating-guidance>

State of Vermont Agency of Education, COVID-19 Testing- Testing to Stay, <https://education.vermont.gov/covid19/testing-test-to-stay>

Science Brief: Community Use of Cloth Masks to Control the Spread of SARS-CoV-2, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Updated May 7, 2021, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/masking-science-sars-cov2.html>

Scientific Brief: SARS-CoV-2 Transmission, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Updated May 7, 2021, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/sars-cov-2-transmission.html>

