



Test to Stay FAQs

(12-2-2021)

Q: Should fully vaccinated students and staff participate in this program?

No, fully vaccinated individuals are not subject to quarantine and do not require test to stay to continue attending school following an exposure.

Q: What is the purpose of test to stay?

Test to stay is a testing protocol which allows students and staff without symptoms to remain in Oregon's K-12 schools during their quarantine period. When this testing is combined with the several layers of mitigation in K-12 settings, including universal masking, physical distancing, cohorting, and ventilation, the risk of transmission in these settings is minimized. The CDC is studying test to stay, and considers it a promising practice for minimizing quarantine and maximizing school days in school.¹

Q: What if a student doesn't have consent on file for testing or refuses to take a test?

Students who do not have consent on file may not be tested. Participation in test to stay is optional and students who refuse to participate may quarantine at home.

Q: If a student/staff is exposed at lunch and isn't wearing a mask, are they eligible to participate?

Yes; if an exposure occurs in an indoor K-12 setting in which universal masking is implemented and students/staff were unmasked only because they were actively eating or drinking, the students/staff are eligible to participate in test to stay.

Note: this is a change from previous guidance.

Q: If a student/staff is exposed on the school bus traveling between home and school, are they eligible to participate?

Yes; a school bus may be considered an indoor K-12 setting in which universal masking is implemented and students/staff are eligible to participate.

¹ Source: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/admin-faq.html#anchor_1634072007476

Q: If a student/staff is exposed on the school bus during an extracurricular activity, are they eligible to participate?

No; students/staff exposed on a school bus during extracurricular activities (e.g., traveling to a game) are not eligible to participate. Test to stay may not be used following extracurricular exposures because masking in these settings is optional and the risk of transmission within the cohort is greater due to the nature of extracurricular activities.

Q: If a student/staff is exposed during an extracurricular activity, are they eligible to participate?

Test to stay may not be used following extracurricular exposures because masking in these settings is optional and the risk of transmission within the cohort is greater due to the nature of extracurricular activities. Similarly, test to stay may not be used following community or in-home exposures.

Q: Can a student take a test at home and be allowed to continue to come to school?

At this time, testing for test to stay must occur using the Abbott BinaxNOW resources provided to schools by OHA. K-12 screening testing performed through one of Oregon's four regional laboratory partners may be used for the second test. The Abbott BinaxNOW testing is only available through public and private K-12 schools. Oregon hopes to launch a self-test/at home testing option for test to stay but has not yet been able to secure testing resources for this.

Q: Can a student take a test at a community testing site and be allowed to continue to come to school?

At this time, testing for test to stay must occur using the Abbott BinaxNOW resources provided to schools by OHA. K-12 screening testing performed through one of Oregon's four regional laboratory partners may be used for the second test. The Abbott BinaxNOW testing is only available through public and private K-12 schools. Oregon hopes to launch a self-test/at home testing option for test to stay but has not yet been able to secure testing resources for this.

Q: What is the optimal timing for the first test?

The first test should occur as soon as the exposure has been identified—because of delays in testing and case reporting, this may be several days following the actual exposure. Importantly, the first test should occur before students and staff are allowed to return to the classroom.

Q: What is the optimal timing for the second test?

The second test should occur between days 5-7 following the exposure. This range allows for consideration of weekends as well as timing since the first test was performed.

Q: What if the exposure is not identified until day 7?

The first test should occur as soon as the exposure has been identified. If the first test occurs between days 5-7 following the exposure, a second test is not needed.

Q: What if a second exposure occurs during the 7-day modified quarantine?

If a second exposure occurs during the 7-day modified quarantine period (e.g., a student in the cohort tests positive during their second test), a new modified quarantine period begins with a first test as soon as the exposure is identified and a second test 5-7 days following the exposure.

Q: If my school is enrolled in the diagnostic testing program, do we need to enroll separately to participate in test to stay?

No; if your school is enrolled in the diagnostic testing program you may begin participating in test to stay using the tests you have on hand.

Q: How do I get more tests?

When a school's supply is low, the School Testing Administrator or School Testing Reporter should contact their district office to receive additional tests. Private schools, superintendents, or their delegee, can submit a new order for their district [here](#). An email confirming receipt of the order will be sent and the BinaxNOW tests will arrive within 7-10 business days. It is the responsibility of the Superintendent, or their delegee, to verify that the school has registered separately with OHA.

Q: Can we use additional school staff or volunteers to facilitate high-volume testing?

If you need to add additional School Testing Administrators or School Testing Reporters to facilitate high-volume testing, please inform OHA of the additions by emailing schooltesting.covid@dhs.ohio.state.gov. All School Testing Administrators must complete all required online training modules for the BinaxNOW point-of-care antigen test and carefully review all training regarding personal protective equipment (PPE) use before testing.

Q: Should testing occur more frequently than twice in the 7-day period?

There are several test to stay protocols with different testing frequencies that are currently being piloted nationwide. In choosing to test twice weekly, we considered the low-risk nature of these exposures due to universal masking and other mitigation strategies in K-12 settings, available testing capacity and feasibility of implementation. We believe that twice weekly testing is appropriate.

Q: How effective are the BinaxNOW tests at detecting COVID-19 in persons without symptoms?

The BinaxNOW rapid antigen tests work well to detect infection in individuals with high viral loads of COVID-19 — and who are most likely to be actively transmitting the virus to others. Additionally, the Delta variant of COVID-19 is associated with higher viral loads of COVID-19 and BinaxNOW tests likely work better to detect infection in

individuals infected with the Delta variant. More than 99% of all COVID-19 variants in Oregon are currently Delta.

Q: If a student is exposed during recess, and is unmasked, are they eligible to participate?

Students exposed during unmasked, outdoor recess may participate; however, given the low-risk nature of unmasked outdoor recess exposures, quarantine is unlikely to be required.

Q: If an exposure occurs in an indoor K-12 setting in which masking is fully implemented but an exposed student refuses to mask appropriately, are they eligible to participate in test to stay?

Students who consistently refuse to mask appropriately (e.g., wearing mask below nose despite multiple corrections) are not eligible for test to stay and should be quarantined. Failure to mask appropriately translates to an increased risk of transmission following an exposure.

Q: If an exposure occurs in an indoor K-12 setting in which masking is fully implemented but an exposed student is unable to mask, are they eligible to participate?

Students who are unable to mask are not eligible for test to stay and should be quarantined. The inability to mask translates to an increased risk of transmission following an exposure.

Q: If an exposure occurs in an indoor K-12 setting in which masking is not fully implemented due to the nature of the school activity (e.g., band, welding), are students and staff eligible for test to stay?

No, unvaccinated individuals in K-12 settings in which masking is not fully implemented should be quarantined. The lack of masking translates to an increased risk of transmission following an exposure.

Document accessibility: For individuals with disabilities or individuals who speak a language other than English, OHA can provide information in alternate formats such as translations, large print, or braille. Contact the COVID-19 Communications Unit at 1-971-673-2411, 711 TTY or COVID19.LanguageAccess@dhs.ohio.gov.