



**Pearl River School District
Test to Stay Protocol
Revised February 8, 2022**

Submitted to RCDOH: February 8, 2022

Approval from RCDOH: February 9, 2022

Pearl River School District

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The NYS Department of Health (NYSDOH) and the Rockland County Department of Health (RCDOH) have supplied guidance to school districts regarding the implementation of a Test to Stay (TTS) program that would allow students identified as close contacts to COVID-19 cases in schools to be exempt from quarantine or exclusion from school under certain circumstances. School districts were cautioned to “review the NYSDOH guidance closely” when developing their protocol for a TTS program. Additionally, school districts in Rockland are required to submit their TTS protocol to the RCDOH for approval.

According to the RCDOH guidance issued on January 7, 2022, and an update issued by the NYSDOH on February 4, 2022, students who are unvaccinated against COVID-19 and who are exposed to COVID-19 in school, may attend in-person classes and after school extra-curricular activities (as long as there are no students from other schools) if: (1) the student is symptom free, (2) the school has received consent for the student to undergo testing several times during the quarantine period, and (3) the student tests negative when tested during the approved testing cadence timeframe.

The Test-to-Stay program applies only to students. NYSDOH and RCDOH issued separate guidance pertaining to employees of a school district. Students exposed to COVID-19 outside of school are not eligible for TTS.

Required Elements:

1. COVID-19 Test results, including those received in the TTS program, will be reported to:
 - a. Parents/families: email or phone call from building staff
 - b. NYS COVID-19 Report Card: reported daily through the Superintendent’s office.
 - c. Any other reporting requirement as indicated under public health law.
2. Process to ensure all students are eligible (equity):
 - a. Consent forms will be sent to all families
 - b. Testing will be at no cost to families
 - c. Students are identified by school nursing staff as an unvaccinated exposed individual
 - d. Parent/school nursing staff will verify symptom free
 - e. Parents will be informed of TTS program eligibility via email; timeframe to report to school will be indicated on the email.

- i. Parents will bring their child to their school building on assigned testing days (following the cadence guidance).
 - ii. Parents who cannot transport their child can contact their child's school building for assistance (at least a day in advance).
Transportation costs will be reimbursed for parents to accompany their child to school for each day of testing.
- 3. Students participating in the TTS program will correctly wear well-fitting masks at all times, other than eating or drinking
 - a. Students will be encouraged to wear double masks or will be given KN95 masks at parent request.
 - b. Students will be socially distanced when eating and drinking
- 4. PRSD TTS testing cadence:
 - a. Will be based upon current NYSDOH/RCDOH quarantine guidelines

5 Day Quarantine

The exposed student will be tested a minimum of two times during the five-day period following exposure, unless recognition of the exposure is delayed or weekends or school breaks intervene. See possible minimum testing regimens below.

The five-day period is measured in calendar days where the last date of 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 identified exposure). Therefore, possible testing regimens may include:

	Minimum Testing Cadences	
Day of First Test	Day of 2nd Test	Day of Third Test
0	2 or 3	5
1	3	5
2	4 or 5	5 (if 2nd test on day 4)
3	5	NA
4	5	NA
5	NA	NA

This table is a guide. Adjustments will be made to account for weekends and other non-school days, in which case a test will be conducted on the first school day back and

continue thereafter according to the above. The last test will be done on day 5 whenever day 5 is a school day. Student must test negative on all tests in order to remain in school

5. PRSD TTS testing will be done at the school building
 - a. In accordance with the RCDOH guidance
 - b. School nursing staff will oversee and supervise the testing
 - i. This will ensure the test is given:
 1. to the correct individual
 2. in the correct manner
 - ii. School nursing staff will be provided with N95 masks, gloves, and gowns for oversight of the TTS program
 - c. Parent will administer the test to their child under the oversight of the school nursing staff
 - i. In accordance:
 1. with COVID-19 Antigen Home Test guidelines
 2. NYSDOH TTS program guidelines
 3. LSL will not be necessary as school staff will not be administering the test
 - d. Results will be read and noted by the school nursing staff
 - e. Results will be recorded by the school nursing staff/clerical assist
 - i. Results will be recorded and tracked by building on TTS spreadsheet
6. Students with negative test results
 - a. Will be permitted to remain in school for instruction/academic periods
 - i. Parent must supervise their child until they can report to their classroom
 - b. Will be permitted to attend extracurricular/after school activities as long as students from other schools are not involved.
 - c. Will be observed for symptom development
 - i. If symptoms develop, they will be isolated and sent home as per [NYS/RCDOH](#)
 - ii. Contact tracing will be done by school nursing staff/admin
7. Students with positive test results
 - a. Will be isolated and sent home as per [NYS/RCDOH](#)
 - b. Contact tracing will be done by school nursing staff/admin and will follow our pre-established protocol