



## Test and Stay COVID 19 Update

Updated 12/3/21

Throughout the pandemic, we have all been eager for the time when we have all students back for in person learning. While we are seeing the success of being in person full time this fall, we still have too many students with significant interruptions to their in-person learning due to quarantine. These interruptions not only affect a student's ability to be in school, but also are a significant stressor on families. After careful review of our district COVID data, we are seeing trends that would support continuation of a Test and Stay program, with modifications to reduce the amount of testing that would allow students to avoid quarantine from school if they have a negative COVID test daily during their quarantine period.

Our rationale for making this change is as follows:

1. We want healthy students in school as much as possible. We know that chronic absenteeism (for any reason) leads to an increased likelihood of negative outcomes for students.
2. We want to limit the spread of COVID in our schools and community. We do have spread in our schools, therefore we cannot fully abandon contact tracing efforts without the additional mitigation strategy through testing.
3. Our current mitigation strategies are limiting spread of COVID in our schools
  - a. Less than 3% of school close contacts eventually tested positive (in other words, 97% of our close contacts stay healthy). We are seeing even less spread in grades 7-12, where students are able to be vaccinated.
  - b. For every case related to school spread, we are quarantining 33 students that do not develop COVID.
  - c. Minimal spread in our schools is attributed to normal classroom/school routines with proper mitigation strategies in place. Therefore the risk involved in a test and stay program should be no greater than we are currently experiencing. This is supported by [research](#) related to similar programs.

Beginning Monday December 6th, 2021:

- **IN GRADES PK-6:** Unvaccinated students identified as close contacts to a **school related positive case** will be able to stay at school for the duration of the quarantine period if they receive a negative test result sometime between day 5 and 7.
- **IN GRADES 7-12:** Unvaccinated students identified as close contacts to a **school related positive case** will be able to stay at school for the duration of the quarantine period as long as they remain symptom free. If a student develops symptoms, they should stay home and be tested.

Following CDC and DHS guidance, vaccinated close contacts do not need to quarantine and are encouraged, but not required to test between day 5 and 7 of exposure. Contact tracing will continue to be led by our school nurse team and any close contact who tests positive and/or develops symptoms will be required to isolate. At this time, this protocol does not apply to school sponsored sporting events. Due to the increased risk related to

sports exposure, we will require students to quarantine from sporting activities (practices, games, and team events) for the duration of their quarantine period (up to 14 days with an option to return on day 8 if symptom free and have a negative test on day 6 or 7).

Antigen testing will be available to identified school related close contacts between day 5 and 7 of the quarantine period through our testing vendor, Accelerated Labs. Written parent permission or online registration will be required for a child to test at school. Parents will have the opportunity to opt out of testing, however their child will be required to quarantine for up to 14 days.

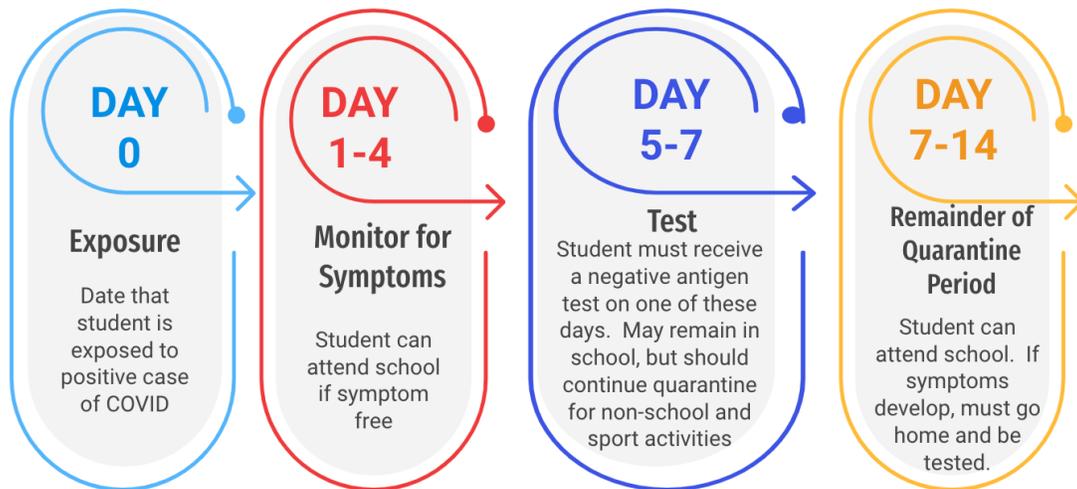
We can provide this option because of the strong mitigation measures in schools. The test and stay option is currently only available for school-based close contacts; however, we will continue to monitor our data to determine if we can add non-school based contacts in the future. We continue to emphasize that vaccination is the best way to protect ourselves and others from developing serious complications from COVID as well as to have uninterrupted participation in school-related activities.

The School District will reserve the option to quarantine students without an option to Test and Stay if there is an outbreak within a classroom, school, or extracurricular group.

Registration for testing can be done at the following site: <https://register.covidconnect.wi.gov/>. If you need assistance in registering your child, please contact your school health office.

## Quarantine Guidance for Close Contacts Identified at School: Updated 12/3/21

Students who have a daily negative COVID test result are able to continue participating in school activities. Quarantine for activities outside of school is still recommended during the quarantine period. Mitigation measures at school activities, including masks and physical distancing should be in place during quarantine period.



\*This guidance applies to school attendance and non-sport school activities only.

\*\*Mitigation strategies including masking in all school settings and physical distancing to the greatest extent possible should be in place.

## SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LA CROSSE COVID-19 SCHOOL-BASED TESTING CONSENT

The School District of La Crosse is using this form to receive your consent to test your child for COVID-19 and to share collected data with relevant authorities.

**What is the test?**

With your consent, your child will receive a free diagnostic test for the virus that causes COVID-19. Collecting a specimen for testing involves inserting a small swab, similar to a cotton swab, into both nostrils.

**How will I find out about the results of the test?**

If your child has a specimen collected for testing at school, you will be notified of the test result or informed of how the test result will be received by phone and/or email. Registration for the test can be found here: <https://register.covidconnect.wi.gov/>

**What should I do when I receive my child's test results?**

If the test is positive, this means that the virus was detected in your child's specimen. You will hear from your child's school or a trained professional about this test. You will be asked to pick up your child if they are at school and you will be provided information about keeping your child home, following up with your health care provider, and when your child can return to school.

If your child's test results are negative, this means that the virus was not detected in your child's specimen at this time. You will be asked to follow the instructions provided by your child's school following this test result.

<b>CONTACT INFORMATION</b> – Completed by parent/guardian or student (if 18 years of age or older) – <b>Please Print</b>				
<b>Student Last Name:</b>		<b>Student First Name:</b>		<b>MI:</b>
<b>Street Address:</b>			<b>City:</b>	<b>State:</b> WI
<b>Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY):</b>			<b>Age:</b>	<b>Student ID Number:</b>
		<b>Sex:</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> Male. <input type="checkbox"/> Female
<b>Gender:</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender – Male to Female <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender – Female to Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender – Unspecified or Gender Non-Specific <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to Answer <input type="checkbox"/> _____				
<b>Race:</b> (check all that apply)				<b>Ethnicity:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaskan Native <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> African American or Black <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to Answer <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-race				<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to Answer
<b>Parent / Legal Guardian Last Name:</b>		<b>Parent / Legal Guardian First Name:</b>		<b>Phone Number:</b>

By signing below, I attest that:

- I have signed this form freely and voluntarily, and I am legally authorized to make decisions for the child named above.
- I consent that the school may notify my child of the test results.
- I consent for my child to be tested for COVID-19 when necessary and understand that my child may be tested multiple times.
- I consent for my child to be tested by school staff, contracted healthcare personnel, Local and Tribal Health Department staff, and/or other trained personnel as directed by the school. I understand that if my child is between the ages of 14-17, they will be asked to provide verbal consent to be tested.
- I understand that this consent form will be valid through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022 unless I notify the designated contact person from my child's school in writing that I revoke my consent.
- I understand that test results may be shared with the school, the ordering physician, county, and other local, state, and federal public health authorities, as well as other testing partners as permitted by law.
- I understand that if I am a student age 18 or older, or may otherwise legally consent for my own health care, references to "my child" refer to me and I may sign this form on my own behalf.

Visit the CDC's Coronavirus webpage for more information on the disease and keeping you and your family safe:  
[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus).

**SIGNATURE** – Parent/guardian or student (if 18 years of age or older)

Date Signed

**Preferred email to send test results:** \_\_\_\_\_