

What parents and guardians NEED TO KNOW ABOUT COVID-19 TEST TO STAY Program

Do you have questions about the free COVID-19 “Test to Stay” Program at W. B. Simpson Elementary School?

Below are answers to questions you may have.

Why is our school testing for COVID-19?

Vaccinating children ages 5 and older is the most important way to protect students and our community from the spread of COVID-19. Screening testing is also important for catching outbreaks early and preventing the spread of COVID-19 in our school. W. B. Simpson Elementary School is participating in the COVID-19 Testing Program to test students who are not yet *vaccinated* on a weekly basis to screen for COVID-19. This testing is free of charge to families. While participation is optional, families are encouraged to sign up for free testing by following the directions at <https://my.primary.health//caesar-rodney-schools>

What is the COVID-19 “Test to Stay” Program?

The Test To Stay Program is an option for quarantine that allows students exposed to someone with COVID to attend school during the quarantine period as long as they test negative for COVID on a daily basis, the evening before attending school, and meet the identified criteria for attendance. This program is in addition to the weekly screening testing done through the COVID-19 Testing Program. Within our district, Test To Stay testing sites are located at Magnolia Middle School and Caesar Rodney High School from 4-7 pm Monday – Thursday. These sites are open for Test-To-Stay participants only. Additional sites are located throughout the state and any participant in Test To Stay may use any of the identified Quidel TTS sites. Please see links for a list of testing locations <https://www.dhsscovidsschooltest.com> and a google map [Delaware Test to Stay Locations - Google My Maps](#).

How the “Test to Stay” Program Works

Who can participate in the “Test to Stay” Program?

Students who are enrolled in W. B. Simpson Elementary School’s COVID-19 Testing Program with an up-to-date consent form are eligible for “Test to Stay.” If they are exposed to someone with COVID-19, they can be tested daily. To remain in school during their quarantine period, the student must

- Show no symptoms
- Test negative daily (Sunday evening through Thursday evening)
- Must correctly wear a mask indoors when at school
- Must continue to quarantine when not at school

How does “Test to Stay” work for my student?

If a student was exposed to someone with COVID-19 **in school**, the school nurse will contact the student’s parent/caregiver notifying them that their student has been exposed and that they have the option to remain in school during their quarantine period by receiving daily testing through the “Test to Stay” Program. If the parent/caregiver consents to having their student receive daily testing through

the “Test to Stay” Program, the school nurse will provide details on the location and timing of daily testing. The student will need to be picked up on the day the parent is notified of the potential exposure (unless they test negative that morning through the regular COVID-19 Testing Program) but can return to class the next day if they test negative that evening in the “Test to Stay” Program and do not have any symptoms of COVID-19. Please keep in mind that we will only accept test results provided through the “Test to Stay” Program to allow quarantining students to remain in school.

If a student was exposed to someone with COVID-19 **outside of school**, parents/caregivers and students have the option to let the school nurse know of this exposure so that the student can participate in the “Test to Stay” Program to receive daily testing and remain in school during their quarantine period. If the parent/caregiver consents to having their student receive daily testing through the “Test to Stay” Program, the school nurse will provide details on the location and timing of daily testing. Again, please keep in mind that only test results provided through the “Test to Stay” Program will be accepted to allow quarantining students to remain in school.

Can my student participate in the “Test to Stay” Program if they are not enrolled in the COVID-19 Testing Program?

Your student must be enrolled in the school’s COVID-19 Testing Program to receive weekly screening tests to participate in the “Test to Stay” Program. However, if your student is exposed to COVID-19 before signing up for the COVID-19 Testing Program, they can be immediately enrolled in the program so that they may participate in the “Test to Stay” Program as well as weekly testing going forward.

What if my student is exposed to COVID-19 and does not participate in “Test to Stay”?

If your student is exposed to COVID-19 and does not participate in “Test to Stay” they must stay home from school during the quarantine period and complete one of the following options for quarantine:

10 day quarantine – return on day 11

Student may end quarantine after day 10 if no symptoms were noted on daily monitoring and there have been no new known exposures. Quarantine will be complete at the end of the 10th day and your child may return to school on day 11

7 day quarantine – return on day 8

Student may end quarantine after day 7 if they do not experience symptoms, have no new exposures, and test negative by PCR or observed rapid antigen on days 5, 6, or 7. If all criteria are met they may return on day 8.

Test to Stay is the only option for quarantine that permits school attendance during the quarantine period.

Because CR Countywide Programs has students who cannot wear masks consistently or correctly at all times throughout the school day or who are medically exempt from wearing masks, these students would not qualify for Test to Stay

Does my student need to participate in weekly testing or “Test to Stay” if they are fully vaccinated?

No. However, if they are partially vaccinated or not vaccinated at all, it is recommended that they receive weekly screening testing through participation in the COVID-19 Testing Program and daily testing while quarantining in the “Test to Stay” Program.

How will students be tested in the “Test to Stay” Program?

Students in “Test to Stay” will receive an antigen test in the evening before every school day (Sunday through Thursday) for 7 days following a known exposure to COVID-19. The antigen tests will involve

a quick and easy nasal swab. The swab will be done by the student or, if assistance is needed, by trained clinical staff.

When and where will the tests occur?

The “Test to Stay” Program will be testing students after school or in the evenings between 4pm-7pm, for admittance the following school day. Testing will be conducted at Caesar Rodney High School and Magnolia Middle School Monday through Thursday and is free to all families. The Caesar Rodney School District does not offer testing on Sundays, Please see the link for a list of Sunday testing locations. <https://www.dhsscovidsschooltest.com> and a google map [Delaware Test to Stay Locations - Google My Maps](#) Students and staff may use any evening Quidel testing location in their area that is participating in the Test To Stay Program.

How will parents/caregivers be notified of results?

Parents/caregivers can wait in the parking lot of the test location for testing staff to come to their car to deliver test results approximately 30 minutes after the test. Parents/caregivers will also be notified of results directly by email from Quidel, our testing partner. **Parents/caregivers will need to forward this email to WBSTTS@cr.k12.de.us for their student to attend school the next day.** If the test result email is not forwarded to WBSTTS@cr.k12.de.us before the start of the next school day, your student will not be allowed to attend school that day.

Can students in “Test to Stay” participate in sports and other extra-curricular activities?

If your student tests negative and is able to remain in school during their quarantine period through the “Test to Stay” Program, they may also participate in extra-curricular activities. However, this does not include weekend activities, as testing is not available on Friday or Saturday evening.

What if my student tests positive?

We will ask you to keep your student home. You will be asked to provide information about your student’s close contacts so that everyone who has been exposed can be notified. We will also be in touch to assist you in connecting your student with medical care and other support for your student and family, if needed, Quidel will take a follow-up PCR swab at the “Test to Stay” site if a student receives a positive antigen test, so parents are encouraged to wait at the site for the antigen test results if possible.

How will the school protect my student’s privacy?

Testing results will be shared only for public health purposes, which may include notifying close contacts that they may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 and taking other steps to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 in your school community. **Information sharing and notifying of contacts will be done in a way that protects your student’s privacy. Your student’s name and personal information will never be shared as part of this program.** Sharing of information about your student will only be done in accordance with applicable laws and policies protecting student privacy and the security of your student’s information.

The CDC recommends everyone 5 years and older get a COVID-19 vaccine to help protect against COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective, and free. Getting vaccinated prevents severe illness, hospitalizations, and death. Additionally, vaccinated students and staff do not have to quarantine after being exposed to someone with COVID-19. Visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to find vaccination providers near you.