

WHITEHALL CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PO Box 29, 87 Buckley Road, Whitehall, New York 12887-3633
Whitehall – Birthplace of the U. S. Navy – www.railroaders.net

“Test To Stay” Protocol

As supported in the December 23, 2021 “Revised Updated Testing and Quarantine Supplemental Information to the “Interim NYSDOH Guidance for Classroom Instruction in P-12 Schools During the 2021-2022 Academic Year”” guidance memo, and revised by the January 10, 2022 memo from the NYSDOH, the Whitehall Central School District will be implementing the “Test to Stay” initiative, effective January 11, 2022.

Eligibility

- Only those students, faculty, or staff who have been identified as a close-contact due to a school-setting exposure are eligible to participate;
- Both, the COVID positive individual (*index patient*) and the exposed person, must have been determined that they were consistently and properly masked while in the school building consistent with the NYS reopening guidance;
- The exposed person is asymptomatic and remains asymptomatic throughout the TTS period;
- If the exposed person develops any symptoms, they will be excluded from attending school per the current school guidance and the TTS process will be stopped;
- The exposed person is allowed to remain in school and ride the school bus, but is prohibited from attending any after-school events, and participating in any extra-curricular activities, including: clubs and interscholastic athletics
 - The exposed person is allowed to attend chorus, band, and physical education courses, but are not permitted to actively participate

Testing

- The exposed person will be tested a minimum of two times during a five-day period following the school-based exposure, unless recognition of the exposure is delayed or a weekend or period of school break intervenes.
- The specific dates of testing will be determined by the school nurse or their designee.
- If the exposed person is unable to adhere to the testing dates, they will be excluded from school.
- The five-day period is measured in calendar days where the date of exposure is considered “Day 0”.
- The first test shall be conducted as soon as possible after the exposure is identified. The second test will be administered on day three, or if day three is a weekend or holiday, the next available school day. The district reserves the right to require additional testing at our discretion. *A sample testing schedule is provided below.*

- Testing can be done at the district by our school nurse or her trained designee or at home using an over-the-counter at home test. If testing at home, an attestation form is required to be completed and forwarded to the district.
- Participating individuals will report to the isolation room upon arrival at school to be tested.
- If the test result is positive, the individual will be isolated and required to return home. The district will then contact the Washington County Department of Health to inform them of the positive case and to assist with any school-related contact-tracing requirements.
- At home testing is not allowed for the TTS program.

Example 1

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	Day 0 (<i>day of exposure</i>)	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
	Test 1			Test 2		

- Exposure occurred on a Tuesday (*day 0*) and the exposed person was immediately tested
- A second test would be administered on Friday (*day 3*)
- No additional testing would be required since the individual would be out of quarantine by the next school day

Example 2

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			Day 0 (<i>day of exposure</i>)	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
Day 4	Day 5			Test 1		
Test 2						

- Exposure occurred on a Thursday (*day 0*) and the exposed person was then tested on Friday (*day 1*)
- The second test would be administered on the next school day, Monday (*day 4*)

Example 3

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	Day 0 (<i>day of exposure</i>)	Day 1	Day 2 *day the district was notified of the exposure	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5

				Test 1		
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- Exposure occurred on Tuesday (*day 0*), but the district was not notified until Thursday and notification to the individual occurred late Thursday
 - Test 1 would be given on Friday (*day 3*) and no other tests would be required since the period of quarantine ended before the next school day
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The TTS program is contingent upon the availability of test kits. If the district does not have the required number of kits to complete the process, the TTS program will be suspended until more tests are available.

Participating individuals must continue to follow any quarantine orders from the Department of Health. Participating in the TTS program does not exempt exposed individuals from quarantine orders, beyond attending school.