



Anderson County Public Schools Optional “Test to Stay” Program 2021-2022 School Year

2021-2022 School Year Test to Stay Program

In-person instruction remains a top priority. The purpose of this document is to provide guidelines for Anderson County Schools Test to Stay **optional strategy** for managing Covid-19 exposures in the school setting. CDC guidelines emphasize the implementation of layered prevention strategies to protect students, teachers, and staff which includes isolation of persons who test positive for Covid-19 as well as contact tracing and quarantine of unvaccinated contacts. This document outlines guidelines for our optional “test to stay” strategy to allow unvaccinated individuals who are exposed to Covid-19 to continue with ***in-person instruction*** with repeated negative Covid-19 test results. This program is intended for continuity of in-person education and continued participation in athletic programs or extracurricular activities.

Requirements of the Test to Stay Program for Students & Staff

1. Screening test program at the school that provides a rapid Covid-19 test to students and staff **at no cost**. Cumberland Family Medical nurses will administer the tests daily at school prior to classroom entry.
2. **Voluntary participation** by exposed contacts. Minors would only be tested with parent/guardian consent.
3. Required masking, regardless of flag level, for students or staff who are in the program, who are considered close contacts.
4. Contact tracing will be done in compliance with CDC recommendations and if needed in consultation with the local Health Department.
5. Close contacts who are considered to be exposed, will be notified. Exposures would include **asymptomatic (no symptoms)** unvaccinated students or staff, who will be offered to quarantine based on CDC guidance OR participate in the Test to Stay program. Fully vaccinated* students and staff considered exposures **could** test on day 5.
6. Testing for the Test to Stay program will occur on days 1-5 at the same time each day following the exposure. If testing can not be performed on the first day following the exposure, it should begin as soon as possible. Testing should be administered 24 hours apart. Testing may not be done on the weekend. Exposed students and staff should quarantine on the weekend or days out of school without testing.
7. If quarantining, students and staff testing should not be done earlier than day 5 to be released on day 6 to return to school or work and must wear a mask on days 6-10.
8. Student or staff household contacts can test without cost. Students will need parent/guardian permission. Tests should be arranged through Cumberland Family Medical.

Test to Stay Process

- Once an exposure has been determined, the parent will be notified and given the opportunity to opt-in to the Test to Stay program. Testing for the Test to Stay program will occur on days 1-5 following the exposure. If testing cannot be performed on the first day following the exposure, it should begin as soon as possible. Testing should be administered 24 hours apart. Testing may not be done on the weekend, exposed students and staff should quarantine on the weekend or days out of school without testing.
- Students or staff that test negative may remain at school with a mask on at all times unless eating or drinking, and should social distance at all times. If the test is positive, the student or staff member will be sent home immediately. If a student or staff member chooses not to test, they will be sent home to follow standard quarantine procedures.
- Data will be shared with the local Health Department weekly or daily as appropriate.
- Students may participate in extracurricular activities when participating in the Test to Stay program and should quarantine when not attending in-person school or extracurricular activities.

*Based on current CDC guidance individuals over 17 are not considered “Fully Vaccinated” if they completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over 5 months ago and are not boosted OR Completed the primary series of J&J over 2 months ago and are not boosted OR Are unvaccinated.