

ONC BOCES

Test to Stay Plan

January 17, 2022

ONC BOCES is offering a Test to Stay plan for unvaccinated staff and students if rapid antigen tests are available to the BOCES and our component schools and we have enough trained staff to administer the tests.

The plan allows staff and students who have been exposed to another individual with COVID-19 in the school setting to continue to attend school or work within a school.

The person participating in the Test to Stay plan must be asymptomatic, continue to test negative on all scheduled rapid antigen tests, always wear a close-fitting surgical mask under a cloth mask or a KN95 mask, and keep a physical distance of 6 feet from others whenever possible.

NYS DOH Guidance:

The latest guidance from the NYSDOH on Test to Stay Plans is from the memo on December 23rd. The memo can be found here: [testtostay-memo_12-23-21.pdf \(ny.gov\)](#)

The memo has not been updated to account for the new guidelines on 5-day quarantines. The NYS DOH memo dated January 14th strongly advises K-12 staff and students without a test to stay plan to test on day 2, 3 (or first day back in school after exposure) and day 5. ONC BOCES used this guidance to create our Test to Stay Plan.

Students:

ONC BOCES will honor the Test to Stay plan adopted by the students' home school for any unvaccinated students who were exposed to COVID-19 in school. Students should be tested by the home school before being transported to ONC BOCES.

If the home school does not have a Test to Stay plan, the student should follow the quarantine guidelines and stay home for the full 5 days after exposure.

If at any time a student develops symptoms, a PCR test will be required prior to returning to BOCES.

If at any time a student tests positive on any type of COVID-19 test, they should stay home and follow the NYSDOH isolation guidance found here: [Quarantine and Isolation Guidance_1.14.22.pdf \(ny.gov\)](#)

Staff:

ONC BOCES will allow unvaccinated staff who were exposed to COVID-19 in school to participate in the Test to Stay plan. Once identified as a close contact, the staff member should contact our Human Resources Department and their supervisor to request to participate in the plan.

If the staff member works at one of our occupational centers, the nurse at that building will be alerted to the need to test the staff member before school based on the testing schedule.

If the staff member works at ISS or Center Street, they will need to test at the occupational center that is closest to their home.

If the staff member works in our component schools, and the district participated in a Test to Stay plan, we will ask if the school nurse at the first district of the day will be willing to test them. If the district does not have a plan or is not willing to do the test, the staff member can get tested at the occupational center closest to their home.

If a staff member does not wish to participate in the BOCES Test to Stay plan, we will continue to follow the state guidance for paid leave that allow for one paid quarantine. The link to the COVID-19 paid leave time is here: [COVID Leave FAQ as of 12.16.21 \(eschoolview.com\)](#)

If at any time a staff member develops symptoms, a PCR test will be required to return.

If at any time a staff member tests positive on any type of COVID-19 test, they should stay home and follow the NYSDOH isolation guidance found here: [Quarantine and Isolation Guidance_1.14.22.pdf \(ny.gov\)](#)

Schedule:

The staff member electing to participate in the Test to Stay plan should report directly to the school nurse's office before the school day or their shift begins on day 2, 3 and 5. Day 0 is the day of exposure. If a staff member also wishes to test on day 1 and day 4, they will be permitted so long as tests are available.

Materials:

All rapid antigen tests and appropriate PPE will be provided to the trained school nurses for use for Test to Stay. Biohazard bags will be used to dispose of testing materials.

Surgical, cloth and KN95 masks will be distributed to each school nurse and each main office on our campus for use by individuals if they do not have their own mask upon arrival at the building.

Reporting:

ONC BOCES has a CLIA lab certificate for both of our occupational centers. All component school districts have a CLIA lab certificate as well.

The rapid antigen test results will be reported in ECLRS and recorded on our daily COVID-19 Report Card to New York State.

If any test is positive, the BOCES will follow their standard notification, contact tracing, and reporting procedures. The staff member will be required to leave the building and isolate immediately.

This Test to Stay plan will be shared with the local department of health directors in Otsego, Delaware, Schoharie, and Greene Counties for review. The plan will be shared with ONC BOCES staff, families of students attending ONC BOCES, and our component school superintendents.