

# TEST TO STAY

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

### What is Test to Stay?

The goals of Test to Stay are to allow students and staff to participate in in-person learning as safely as possible while lessening the burden of quarantine on students and their families, teachers, and school administrators.

For additional information on Test to Stay:

[https://coronavirus-download.utah.gov/School/Test\\_to\\_Stay\\_V3.pdf](https://coronavirus-download.utah.gov/School/Test_to_Stay_V3.pdf)

### Is Test to Stay required by law?

YES. Utah Senate Bill 107 requires schools to do a Test to Stay event when:

- Schools with 1,500 or more students have 2% of their students test positive for COVID-19 within the previous 14 days.
- Schools with fewer than 1,500 students have 30 students test positive for COVID-19 within the previous 14 days.

When a school meets the Test to Stay thresholds, the LEAs in consultation with the Utah County Health Department (UCHD) will work together to offer testing for all students. LEAs may request assistance from the Utah Department of Health (UDOH) for testing supplies, mobile testing units, and other support.

### Who determines when and how to implement a Test to Stay event?

LEAs/schools will determine when and how to offer COVID-19 testing to students. When a school meets the thresholds outlined in Utah Senate Bill 107, the LEA in consultation with the local health department will determine when and how to offer COVID-19 testing for all students.

### How will I be notified if my students' school is implementing a Test to Stay event?

Schools will communicate with parents utilizing ParentLink, email, social media, letters sent home if their school has reached the threshold parameters established by the Utah County Health Department. This information will also include date and location, detailed Test to Stay event procedures.

### Do schools have to get parent/legal guardian consent prior to testing?

YES. By law, parent/legal guardian consent is required to test students under the age of 18. Students who are 18 years of age and older may provide consent for themselves.

### What are the possible outcomes for a student participating in the Test to Stay event?

There are three possible Test to Stay event outcomes:

1. Positive Test: Students who test positive MUST isolate at home. They may return to in-person learning and extracurricular activities after they complete their 10-day isolation period.
2. Negative Test: Students who test negative and do not have any symptoms of COVID-19 may continue in-person learning and extracurricular activities.
3. Did Not Participate: Students who do not participate should quarantine at home for 10 days. They may return to in-person learning and extracurricular activities after 10 days.

### **Who will conduct the testing for the Test to Stay event?**

In conjunction with trained school and district personnel, the State and County Health Departments will conduct the testing for students.

### **What if my student is exposed to someone who tests positive at a Test to Stay event?**

Contact tracing should be done for anyone who is exposed to someone who tests positive at a Test to Stay event.

- Students or school staff who are exposed to a person who tests positive at the Test to Stay event should follow quarantine guidelines. The local health department will determine the dates close contacts were exposed and when quarantine begins. Parents and school staff who have questions about how COVID-19 will be handled in their school or at extracurricular activities should contact their local health department or school for more information.
- All close contacts should be notified and provided with instructions on what they should do. Close contacts should be told to watch for symptoms of COVID-19 until it has been 14 days after their exposure and what safety precautions should be taken. If at any time during the 14 days after their exposure a person develops symptoms of COVID-19, regardless of their vaccination status, he or she should isolate and get tested right away.

### **I'm concerned how my student will respond to testing because of special healthcare needs and/or diagnosed medical concerns. Will my student have to be tested?**

There may be situations where students with special healthcare needs may be unable to participate in testing because of physical, mental, or behavioral limitations. Parents should work with their child's healthcare provider and the school to see if accommodations are possible in these situations, such as using a saliva PCR test instead of a nasal swab test. In rare circumstances, a student who is unable to participate in the Test to Stay event, or is unable to use a different type of test, may be allowed to attend school. Parents of children with special healthcare needs should make this request to the school. Parents may wish to talk with their child's healthcare provider, the school nurse, or local health department when making this decision. Parents and the school should consider the following circumstances when deciding if a student returns to in-person learning without being tested:

- If strict prevention measures can be taken, including mask wearing by the student, teachers, and the student's other classmates.
- The student's IEP or 504 plan services would be significantly disrupted if the student was moved to remote or virtual learning.
- The student attends school in a self-contained unit, away from the general student population.

Please talk to your school administrator if you have specific concerns about testing.

### **Are school employees required to participate in the Test to Stay event?**

NO. School employees are not required to participate in the Test to Stay event, but can do so if they choose. They are expected to continue their normal job duties in-person if they choose not to get tested or test negative. They should isolate at home if they test positive or follow quarantine guidelines if they were exposed to COVID-19.

For those school employees who like to participate in the Test to Stay event, they would need to be registered in the REDCap system. School administrators would provide the REDCap school specific link to register as requested by those employees, including their consent to testing.

For additional information regarding the REDCap registration process and/or as an employee, you would like to register yourself in advance: <https://c19.health.utah.gov/surveys/?s=NC4WH34EC4>