



Department of Public Health

Monroe County, New York

Adam J. Bello
County Executive

Michael D. Mendoza, MD, MPH, MS
Commissioner of Public Health

Test to Stay

Updated November 30, 2021

Pursuant to authority granted to local health departments by the New York State Department of Health, the Monroe County Department of Public Health has authorized the establishment of a limited Test to Stay option in all public, charter and private Monroe County Pre-K through 12 schools. This recommendation is based on the recognition that masking, social distancing and other protective measures are closely monitored in schools, making community transmission of COVID-19 less likely compared to most other public and private places. MCDPH may revoke this authorization at any time.

WHAT DOES “TEST TO STAY” MEAN?

In Monroe County, Test to Stay is defined as follows: Students who are unvaccinated against COVID-19 and are exposed to COVID-19 may attend in-person classes, even while under mandatory quarantine orders, if: (1) they are symptom free, (2) the school has received consent for the student to undergo daily testing for a defined period and (3) the student tests negative each school day during the defined period.

IF AN UNVACCINATED STUDENT PARTICIPATES IN TEST TO STAY, IS THE STUDENT NO LONGER SUBJECT TO MANDATORY QUARANTINE?

The student is still subject to mandatory quarantine at all other times. When an unvaccinated student has been exposed to COVID-19, Monroe County will issue a mandatory quarantine order, requiring the student to quarantine for 10 days following the exposure. The student will be allowed to break this quarantine to attend school for classroom instruction and activities during regular school instruction/academic hours, but at all other times, the student must remain in mandatory quarantine until released by Monroe County.

Other than attending in-person classes during regular school instruction/academic hours, the student is not permitted to participate in any activities outside of the home during quarantine, including but not limited to school sanctioned events (sports, clubs, etc.), social events, private lessons, non-school sports, playdates, sleepovers, etc.

DO VACCINATED STUDENTS NEED TO PARTICIPATE IN TEST TO STAY AFTER EXPOSURE TO COVID-19?

No, vaccinated students who have no symptoms can continue with in-person learning without daily testing.

HOW OFTEN WILL STUDENTS BE TESTED UNDER TEST TO STAY?

Students will be subject to testing every school day during the 7 days immediately following their exposure to COVID-19. If the 7th day falls on a weekend or holiday, the student must be

tested for the last time on the first day back to school. If there is a lag in beginning daily testing, the student must be tested as followed:

Start Date	Test Dates
1 Day After Exposure (Day 1)	Days 1 – 7
2 Days After Exposure (Day 2)	Days 2 – 7
3 Days After Exposure (Day 3)	Days 3 – 7
4 Days After Exposure (Day 4)	Days 4 -7
5 Days After Exposure (Day 5)	Days 5 & 6
6 Days After Exposure (Day 6)	Days 6 & 7
≥ 7 Days After Exposure (Day 7 – Day 10)	A minimum of 2 tests, 24 hrs. apart (i.e., Days 7 & 8, 8 & 9, 9 & 10, 10 & 11)

WHAT IF THE STUDENT’S QUARANTINE IS EXTENDED BEYOND 10 DAYS?

While unusual, Monroe County can extend a mandatory quarantine period beyond the original 10 days if circumstances warrant. If this occurs, the Test to Stay option will start over and the student must begin another round of testing on school days for 7 days.

WHAT KIND OF TEST CAN BE USED FOR TEST TO STAY?

A rapid Antigen test is recommended for this purpose, but PCR tests are acceptable as well.

