

STOCKBRIDGE VALLEY



CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Home of the Cougars

Subject: Test to Stay - Keeping students, teachers, and staff in school instead of quarantine

Given the burden that quarantine can have on K-12 students and families, Stockbridge Valley CSD - in conjunction with the Madison County Department of Health (MCDOH) - will be conducting a program, "Test to Stay."

What does test to stay mean?

If a student, teacher or staff member has been in contact with a positive individual, in lieu of putting quarantined students, teachers or staff at home for ten days, test to stay allows them to stay in school as long as they have no symptoms and test negative daily. Parental permission will be required for participating students.

How will this work?

Normal contact tracing will take place. Administrators and nurses will contact teachers, staff and families of students who are considered in close contact. The family can agree to have their student tested daily in school as an alternative to having to quarantine during school hours. Likewise, teachers and staff can agree to be tested daily in school as an alternative to having to quarantine during school hours. Students, Teachers, and staff would arrive at school and report directly to the nurse's office for testing. A negative test will keep them in school. If they test positive, the parent and/or guardian will be required to pick up their child and quarantine their student. Teachers and staff members will be required to go home if they test positive.

Who is eligible for this?

All K-12th grade students, teachers and staff that would be placed in quarantine because of an exposure, with the exception of family members in the same household, are eligible. Siblings of a positive student or a child of a teacher/staff will need to quarantine and will be eligible for remote learning.

I truly believe that it is in the best interest of staff, students and families to have our students and staff in the buildings as much as possible. This program will allow for that. As always, parents and/or staff have the right to quarantine instead of test, but we want to make this option available to release the burden of quarantine of our students and staff.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through all processes this year. We hope that this partnership with Madison County will keep our students in the school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Corey Graves', written in a cursive style.

Corey Graves

Superintendent of Schools

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Summary of Madison County Eligibility

Eligibility: To receive a modified quarantine order that allows in-person instruction, a student, teacher or staff member must meet all of the following criteria:

- Have not been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and under a quarantine order issued by MCDOH.
- Students, teachers and/or staff with household exposures (e.g. siblings, spouse, or child) are not eligible for the protocol.
- The infected individual and the exposed student, teacher, or staff member must have consistently and correctly worn well-fitting masks during the exposure.
- Not be associated with a cluster or outbreak, as determined by MCDOH.
- Have not developed any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 at any time since their exposure.
 - Parents of participating students whose household contacts have signs or symptoms of COVID-19 should not send their child to school and instead contact the school nurse.
 - Teachers and/or staff should not attend school if they, or anyone in their household has signs or symptoms of COVID-19. They should instead contact the school nurse.
- Correctly wear well-fitting masks in school at all times, other than when eating or drinking. When these individuals cannot be masked, they should maintain 6 feet of distance from other individuals, whenever possible.
- Have an FDA authorized rapid antigen test administered each school day by an appropriately trained school employee or healthcare provider and receive a negative result prior to reporting to class/work. On days when school is not open (e.g. weekends, holidays), testing is not required.
 - At home tests do not qualify for this protocol.
 - If the student, teacher, or staff members' qualifying exposure becomes known during the school day, the student, teacher, and/or staff member must receive a negative antigen test result before departing on a school bus or leaving school.
 - If the student, teacher, or staff members' qualifying exposure becomes known outside the school day, the student, teacher, or staff member must receive a negative COVID-19 viral test (e.g. rapid antigen, PCR) before boarding a school bus the next school day. Parents/guardians may also choose to drive the student to school for their initial test. Teachers or staff may choose to drive to school for their initial test.
- All participants (parents, teachers, staff) agree to:
 - Conduct active monitoring (explicitly asking the student about signs and symptoms of COVID-19) each day before and after school.
 - Immediately contact their, or their child's healthcare provider and MCDOH at (315) 366-2470 if any signs or symptoms develop.
 - Refrain from attending school or sending the participating student to school if any signs or symptoms develop in the student, teacher, or staff member, or anyone in the home.
 - Promptly pick up their child from school, should they test positive or develop signs or symptoms of COVID-19 during school instruction. For teachers and staff members, promptly leave school and go home.
 - The student, teacher, and/or staff member should remain at the location specified in their quarantine order when not attending in-school instruction or school-sponsored activities.