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Test-to-Stay Program

Introduction

On 12/23/21, the NYS Department of Health issued a field memo titled, **Test to Stay Update: Revised Updated Testing and Quarantine Supplemental Information to the Interim NYSDOH Guidance for Classroom Instruction in P-12 Schools During the 2021-2022 Academic**

Year. The memo can be accessed [HERE](#).

Based on recent studies released by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the NYSDOH supports Test to Stay as a strategy that allows **asymptomatic unvaccinated school-based close contacts** (i.e. students, teachers, other school staff) to avoid school exclusion (but not other restrictions of quarantine) by testing negative through serial testing using rapid NAAT or antigen tests during a seven-day period following exposure. The intent is to reduce the number of students and staff who are excluded from school due to quarantine orders who are otherwise healthy (asymptomatic and negative).

Test to Stay (TTS) sets forth responsibilities for local health departments and school districts. This Addendum serves to outline those responsibilities and document Sidney Central School District's plan for implementation.

1. Responsibilities of Delaware County Public Health

- Review updated Test to Stay plans for Sidney Central School District and authorize implementation of Test to Stay programs
- Ensure that schools remain current on their reporting of all COVID-19 test results to the NYS COVID-19 Report Card
- Assess available local resources and encourage schools to assess resources that can be used to support Test to Stay programs
- Ensure the opportunity to participate is available to all districts in the county. School districts retain the authority to decide whether or not to participate

2. Sidney Central School District Test to Stay Plan:

1. If there is a COVID-19 positive case the District will conduct contact tracing consistent with Delaware County Public Health guidelines and parameters and as outlined in the Sidney Central School District Reopening Plan for 2021-2022.
2. Any individual (student, faculty/staff member) who is identified by the District as a close contact as a result of contact tracing will be considered for Test to Stay based on the following parameters:
 - a) **The exposure must have occurred in the school setting.**
 - b) The exposed person is **unvaccinated**.
 - c) The exposed person is **asymptomatic**; if the exposed person who is allowed to remain in school through TTS develops symptoms, they must be immediately excluded from school per current school guidance. In that instance, the District will engage in contact tracing following current protocols.

- d) The exposed person will be tested a minimum of three times during the seven day period following exposure, unless recognition of the exposure is delayed or weekends or school breaks intervene.
- e) The seven-day period is measured in calendar days where the last date of exposure is considered Day Zero (0).
- f) The tests will be conducted, and results received, before the school day begins in the Nurse's office at the Elementary and Jr/Sr High Schools. Any positive individuals will be isolated per existing procedures. Tests conducted at home will not be accepted as part of Test to Stay.

3. This does NOT include close contacts identified for quarantine due to household or community exposure outside of school.
4. The exposed person who is allowed to remain in school through Test to Stay must be otherwise quarantined outside of the instructional school day (after school/evenings; no community activities, extracurricular or athletic participation).
5. Individuals participating in Test to Stay are allowed to continue to ride the school bus following all existing guidance, including required mask wearing.
6. The Test to Stay program will be maintained as long as the District is able to provide test kits in an equitable fashion, free of charge to students and staff. The District retains the authority to discontinue the program at any time.

3. Sidney Central School District COVID-19 Contact Information:

Sidney Central School District has designated Tony Stenta, Director of School Improvement to serve as COVID-19 Coordinator, who along with Eben Bullock, Superintendent are responsible for the following:

- Be the main contacts upon the identification of positive COVID-19 cases and be responsible for subsequent communication
- Ensure continuous compliance with all aspects of the Sidney Central School District pandemic response plan
- Be the county, state, and federal liaison for all matters related to COVID-19

They can be contacted at embullock@sidneycsd.org, astenta@sidneycsd.org, or by calling (607) 561-7700.

SIDNEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR CDC, STATE, AND LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE. THIS PLAN IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC PROGRESSES.