VDH Test to Stay Guidance for Child Care Facilities

Last updated June 30, 2022
Webinar Agenda

- Background for Testing in Child Care Settings
- Overview of Test to Stay Protocols
- Example Testing Scenarios
- Review Eligibility Scenarios
- Additional Child Care Resources
- Questions
We welcome your questions!

- If possible, please wait to enter your questions in the chat until we get through the presentation, so we can be sure they are fully covered, so we can focus on answering them fully.
- We will answer as many commonly asked questions as possible.
- We will share the slides and recording after the presentation, as well as answers to frequently asked questions.
VDH COVID-19 Guidance for Child Care Facilities

● VDH recommends that:
  ○ Before arriving at the facility, staff should screen themselves, and parents/caregivers should screen their child for any symptoms of COVID-19
  ○ Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 or a positive test in the last 5 days should not work in or attend the facility.
  ○ They should follow VDH guidance on isolation and when it is safe to be around others

● The facility should notify the LHD immediately if either of the following are met:
  ○ Clusters (3 or more) of staff and/or children are identified with any respiratory infection; or
  ○ If severe respiratory infection (e.g., requiring hospitalization) is identified among children, staff, or their household contact

For more information please visit: VDH Child Care Guidance
VDH COVID-19 Guidance for Child Care Facilities

VDH advises that child care facilities:

- Have systems in place to allow them to know where staff and children are assigned, and where the assigned groups move within the facility, so that if a case of COVID-19 occurs in a group, the facility knows who the close contacts of an infected person are.
- If a case of COVID-19 is confirmed, the facility should alert any individuals who were in close contact with the infected person.
  - If the facility cannot determine close contacts who spent 15 minutes or more within 6 feet of the person with COVID-19, then all classroom members might be considered close contacts.
- All close contacts should follow VDH guidance for quarantine and for when it is safe to be around others.

For more information please visit: VDH Child Care Guidance
**VDH COVID-19 Guidance for Child Care Facilities**

- Close contacts who are **up to date*** on COVID-19 vaccines or who have recovered from confirmed COVID-19 within the past 6 months (including those under 2 years of age) do not need to quarantine.

- Close contacts who are not **up to date** on vaccines should quarantine at home for 5 full days since the date of last close contact exposure to someone with COVID-19. *(Eligible individuals have the option to participate in Test to Stay)*

- Staff and children ages 2 years and older who return to child care after quarantine should wear a mask on days 6–10.

  For more information please visit: [VDH Child Care Guidance](#)

*Up to date* means a person has received all doses in the primary series and all boosters recommended, when eligible.
VDH COVID-19 Guidance for Child Care Facilities

● Masks are not recommended for children under 2 years, people who have trouble breathing, are incapacitated, or who are otherwise unable to remove the mask without help should not wear a mask, or people with a disability who cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask, for reasons related to the disability.

● The shortened 5-day quarantine period does not apply to children under 2 years of age or anyone who cannot reliably wear a well-fitting mask; these people should quarantine for 10 days.

For more information please visit: VDH Child Care Guidance
Regardless of who identifies close contacts or how it is done, if the facility notifies parents that everyone in the classroom is a close contact, then those close contacts should either quarantine* or participate in TTS if eligible (e.g., 2 years or older, asymptomatic, etc).

*Page 1 of the VDH COVID-19 Guidance for Child Care Facilities: recognizes the need for flexibility when the facility is developing its quarantine policy - e.g., balancing well-being of children, the population it is serving, other layered strategies that might be in place at the facility, and the COVID-19 community level; if the policy mirrors the prior guidance, then they would quarantine or participate in TTS.
Test to Stay (TTS) option for Child Care Facilities

- **Alternative** to traditional at-home quarantine
- For students (age 2+) and staff who are not eligible for or up to date on COVID-19 vaccines, so they may continue in-person participation at the child care facility.
- May help minimize the impact of quarantine and child care absences on facilities and families

To remain in childcare, close contacts must:

- Daily Negative COVID-19 Test
- Wear a Mask
- Monitor Symptoms
Test to Stay for Child Care Facilities

- VDH recommends that all Child Care facilities consider implementing \textit{layered prevention strategies} including vaccination, masking, physical distancing, ventilation, and hand hygiene.

- Facilities that implement Test to Stay should consider the potential additional risk of COVID-19 transmission introduced by allowing known close contacts to remain in child care when making decisions about the right combination of prevention strategies.
What do child care facilities need to know?

- Implementing Test to Stay is voluntary

- Test to Stay is a resource intensive strategy. VDH recommends that all child care facilities have:
  - Adequate resources to conduct TTS; including:
    - A designated staff member point of contact for parents and the local health department
    - Ability to inform the community of the program, distribute and store consent forms, and distribute test kits & supplies
    - Ability to monitor participants’ daily symptoms, mask use, and COVID test results, and communicate with families when a student is released from TTS, or is no longer able to participate

- Adequate resources to track and report information to the LHD as requested.
VDH’s Role in Supporting Test to Stay

- Provide Test to Stay protocols and guidance
- Provide technical assistance and answer questions through informational sessions for child care facilities, email, and office hours
- Test kits (eMed-proctored BinaxNOW Antigen At Home Test Kits) are being supplied to local health districts (LHDs) to then distribute to child care facilities.
  - LHDs will serve as distribution “hub” to child care facilities
  - VDH will not take test kit requests directly from child care facilities
  - Tests can be used for Test to Stay and/or for other diagnostic testing, including of individuals with COVID-19 symptoms or who are close contacts of an individual with COVID-19
The Test to Stay Protocol is VDH guidance and is subject to change based on updated science or guidelines. It includes guidance on:

- Who is a close contact
- Who is eligible for Test to Stay
- How and when to test individuals in Test to Stay
- What additional monitoring of individuals is required
- What to do if an individual becomes sick, tests positive, or cannot wear a mask
- What to do in situations where individuals cannot mask (eating, sleeping)
TTS Protocol: Who is a close contact?

➔ **Close contact** is defined as:
  ◆ Being within 6 ft of a person with COVID-19 for a total of 15 min or more over a 24-hour period; or
  ◆ Having direct exposure to respiratory secretions (e.g. being coughed or sneezed on, sharing a drinking glass or utensils, kissing)

➔ People who are exposed to someone with COVID-19 after they completed at least 5 days of isolation are not considered close contacts.
TTS Protocol: Who is eligible?

TTS should only be used for individuals aged 2 years or older

Eligible:
- Asymptomatic close contact
- Exposure in any setting, including child care, community, or household
- Not up to date on COVID-19 vaccines
- Able to mask
- Signed consent form
- Students, teachers, and staff

Not Eligible:
- Up to date on COVID-19 vaccines
- Individuals who test positive for COVID-19
- Individuals who are symptomatic
- Individuals not able to mask
- Individuals who have had COVID-19 in the last 6 months

For those eligible, participation in Test to Stay is voluntary.
Who is Eligible (Impact of Boosters)

If they meet all other eligibility criteria, the following individuals are eligible:

→ Those 12 years or older who have NOT received all recommended vaccine doses, including boosters.

→ Those 5 - 11 years old who have NOT completed the primary series of COVID-19 vaccines.***

→ Those 2-4 years old who are NOT eligible for COVID-19 vaccines

*** These recommendations apply until the start of the 2022-2023 academic school year, to allow students ages 5-11 who completed their primary series but have not yet received a booster to forgo quarantine. However, starting with the beginning of the 2022-2023 academic school year, all students should follow general CDC Quarantine Guidance, and should quarantine (or participate in Test to Stay) if they are not up to date on COVID-19 vaccines (including booster doses, when eligible).
TTS Protocol: Eligibility and Enrollment

- Student/staff member identified as a close contact

Child care facility notifies staff member or child’s parent/guardian, or staff member or child’s parent/guardian notifies child care facility

- Is the individual eligible to participate in Test to Stay?
  - No
  - Yes

  Staff member or child’s parent/guardian agrees to participate in Test to Stay?
  - No
  - Yes

  Staff member or child’s parent/guardian provides written consent for Test to Stay?
  - No
  - Yes

  Quarantine at home according to public health guidelines
Individual enrolled in Test to Stay

Any symptoms of COVID-19? (Daily screening for 10 days)

- Yes: Isolate at home according to public health guidelines
- No: COVID test negative? (Daily test for 5 days after exposure)
  - Yes: Quarantine at home according to public health guidelines
  - No: Able to mask? (Daily screening for 10 days)
    - Yes: Individual remains in Test to Stay
    - No: Report positive test to the child care facility

TTS Protocol: Testing & Monitoring
TTS Protocol: Testing on Days 1-5

1. Determine the **date of exposure** (Exposure Date = Day 0)

2. Rapid **COVID-19 test before leaving for child care** on weekdays for 5 days after exposure (Days 1-5)
   - May test **at home** with a proctored rapid test (such as eMed Abbott BinaxNOW Antigen At Home Test Kit). **Testing at home is encouraged**
   - May test in the morning before leaving home, or the evening before (ideally after 7pm)
   - No test on weekends or holidays, but student should still quarantine (no parties, sports, etc.)
   - Need at least one negative rapid test on or after the 5th day

3. The individual can remain **in child care** as long as they:
   - Remain asymptomatic;
   - Wear a mask, except when eating, drinking, or sleeping; and
   - Take a rapid test daily and it is negative

4. Send the individual **home to isolate** if they test positive or develop symptoms at any point.
5. Ensure the individual continues to **mask and monitor for symptoms** for an additional **5 days** after testing is over **(Days 6-10)**

Children should be monitored for **signs and symptoms of COVID-19** including: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion/runny nose, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea.

6. Release the individual from Test to Stay **after Day 10**, if all requirements are completed
TTS Protocol: What to do in specific situations?

Lunchtime, snack, and nap time (individuals cannot mask)

Days 1-10: Distance at least 6 feet away from others

Days 1-5 (testing period): Recommended to quarantine at home. Should not participate.

Days 6-10: Should wear mask. May participate if mask use possible. Should avoid areas where mask use is not possible, avoid people with weakened immune systems/high risk for severe COVID-19, avoid others when eating, and avoid travel.

Non child care-related activities (birthday parties, recreational sporting events, etc.)
# TTS Testing Example #1 - Testing days fall on weekends

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exposure day</th>
<th>Day 0</th>
<th>Day 1</th>
<th>Day 2</th>
<th>Day 3</th>
<th>Day 4</th>
<th>Day 5</th>
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<th>Day 10</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Testing days</td>
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<tr>
<td>Did the individual have a negative rapid test this morning or the evening prior? (Yes/No)</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the individual asymptomatic? No signs or symptoms of COVID-19 have occurred since their last check-in (Yes/No)</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is the individual able to wear a mask (except when eating, drinking, or sleeping)? (Yes/No)</td>
<td>X</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Testing and symptom monitoring will begin on the day of exposure or as soon as possible thereafter (some individuals may not be identified as a close contact on Day 0, so monitoring will begin as soon as they are identified).*

*Student does not test on days 2 and 3 because they fall on weekends. However, they must quarantine on these days (i.e., the individual is not to attend birthday parties, sporting events, or any other group activities on these days).*

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- **"Yes"** to all questions listed above
- **"No"** to any of the questions listed above

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**During weekends/holidays**

- Not required to test on weekends or holidays. On days 1-5, should quarantine at home and not participate in extracurricular activities. On days 6-10, avoid areas where you cannot wear a mask, avoid people with weakened immune systems/ high risk for severe COVID-19, avoid other people when you are eating, and avoid travel.

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- May proceed to work in or attend child care facility, wearing a mask except while eating, drinking, or sleeping
- If positive test and/or becomes symptomatic: send home immediately and asked to isolate according to the established protocol for COVID-19 positive individuals.
- If unable to wear a mask (except when eating, drinking, and sleeping), send home to quarantine according to the established protocol for close contacts.
TTS Testing Example #2: Testing day falls on holiday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exposure day</th>
<th>Day 0</th>
<th>Day 1</th>
<th>Day 2</th>
<th>Day 3</th>
<th>Day 4</th>
<th>Day 5</th>
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<tr>
<td>Testing days</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Did the individual have a negative rapid test this morning or the evening prior? (Yes/No)
- Is the individual asymptomatic? No signs or symptoms of COVID-19 have occurred since their last check-in (Yes/No)
- Is the individual able to wear a mask (except when eating, drinking, or sleeping)? (Yes/No)

*Testing and symptom monitoring will begin on the day of exposure or as soon as possible thereafter (some individuals may not be identified as a close contact on Day 0, so monitoring will begin as soon as they are identified).
*Student does not test on days 2 and 3 because they fall on weekends and does not test on day 4 because it is a holiday. However, they must quarantine on these days (i.e., the individual is not to attend birthday parties, sporting events, or any other group activities on these days).

- "Yes" to all questions listed above
- "No" to any of the questions listed above

**During weekends/holidays**

- Not required to test on weekends or school holidays. On days 1-5, should quarantine at home and not participate in extracurricular activities. On days 6-10, avoid areas where you cannot wear a mask, avoid people with weakened immune systems/ high risk for severe COVID-19, avoid other people when you are eating, and avoid travel.

- May proceed to work in or attend child care facility, wearing a mask except while eating, drinking, or sleeping

- If positive test and/or becomes symptomatic: send home immediately and asked to isolate according to the established school protocol for COVID-19 positive individuals.

- If unable to wear a mask (except when eating, drinking, and sleeping), send home to quarantine according to the established school protocol for close contacts.
TTS Testing Example #3: Days 3-5 fall on a holiday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exposure day</th>
<th>Day 0</th>
<th>Day 1</th>
<th>Day 2</th>
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<td>Testing days</td>
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<tr>
<td>Did the individual have a negative rapid test this morning or the evening prior? (Yes/No)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is the individual asymptomatic? No signs or symptoms of COVID-19 have occurred since their last check-in (Yes/No)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is the individual able to wear a mask (except when eating, drinking, or sleeping)? (Yes/No)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Testing and symptom monitoring will begin on the day of exposure or as soon as possible thereafter (some individuals may not be identified as a close contact on Day 0, so monitoring will begin as soon as they are identified).

*Student does not test on days 3 and 5 because they fall on weekends and day 5 because it is a holiday. However, the student must test on day 6 because there needs to be a negative test on day 5 or later. Also, they must quarantine on these days (i.e., the individual is not to attend birthday parties, sporting events, or any other group activities on these days).

*Student must test on day 6 because there has not been a negative test on day 5 or later.

**“Yes” to all questions listed above**

- May proceed to work in or attend child care facility, wearing a mask except while eating, drinking, or sleeping

**“No” to any of the questions listed above**

- If positive test and/or becomes symptomatic: send home immediately and asked to **isolate** according to the established school protocol for COVID-19 positive individuals.

- If unable to wear a mask (except when eating, drinking, and sleeping), send home to **quarantine** according to the established school protocol for close contacts.

**During weekends/holidays**

- Not required to test on weekends or school holidays. On days 1-5, should quarantine at home and not participate in extracurricular activities. On days 6-10, avoid areas where you cannot wear a mask, avoid people with weakened immune systems/high risk for severe COVID-19, avoid other people when you are eating, and avoid travel.
TTS Testing Example #4: Exposure notification on Day 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exposure day</th>
<th>Day 0</th>
<th>Day 1</th>
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<tr>
<td>Is the individual able to wear a mask (except when eating, drinking, or sleeping)? (Yes/No)</td>
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</table>

*Testing and symptom monitoring will begin on the day of exposure or as soon as possible thereafter (some individuals may not be identified as a close contact on Day 0, so monitoring will begin as soon as they are identified).

*Student was not notified of exposure until day 3 post exposure. The student is tested on days 3 – 5 and then proceeds to the mask only phase of the TTS protocol.

"Yes" to all questions listed above

May proceed to work in or attend child care facility, wearing a mask except while eating, drinking, or sleeping

If positive test and/or becomes symptomatic: send home immediately and asked to isolate according to the established school protocol for COVID-19 positive individuals.

If unable to wear a mask (except when eating, drinking, and sleeping), send home to quarantine according to the established school protocol for close contacts.

During weekends/holidays

Not required to test on weekends or school holidays. On days 1-5, should quarantine at home and not participate in extracurricular activities. On days 6-10, avoid areas where you cannot wear a mask, avoid people with weakened immune systems/ high risk for severe COVID-19, avoid other people when you are eating, and avoid travel.
Scenario #1: Exposure at the child care facility

Two 4-year-old students, Jane and Mary, are in the same classroom. Jane is infected with COVID-19 and Mary is considered an exposed close contact. Mary is asymptomatic.

➔ Jane must go home (she has COVID-19) and **ISOLATE**.
➔ Mary is not yet eligible for COVID-19 vaccination.
➔ Mary would normally be asked to quarantine but is **eligible for Test to Stay**. If she chooses to participate in Test to Stay, and remains asymptomatic, she can continue to attend the child care facility. She should follow the protocol for testing and masking for days 1-5 and masking and monitoring for days 6-10.
Scenario #2: Community exposure

Derrick and Janet are two 3-year-old students attending a birthday party together on Saturday. Janet begins exhibiting symptoms and tests positive for COVID-19 later that evening. Derrick is identified as a community-exposed close contact, but feels well and is asymptomatic.

➔ Janet must stay home and **ISOLATE** (she has COVID-19).
➔ Derrick is not yet eligible for COVID-19 vaccination and is asymptomatic.
➔ Derrick has the option to complete a traditional at-home quarantine or participate in **Test to Stay**.
Scenario #3: Household exposure

Michael is a 2 year old who attends a child care facility. Michael’s father, whom he lives with, tests positive for COVID-19. His father is not able to separate away from Michael in the household with a separate bedroom, bathroom, etc. Michael has no signs or symptoms of COVID-19.

➔ Michael is not eligible for COVID-19 vaccination and is **eligible** for Test to Stay.
➔ Since they cannot separate in the home, the exposure is considered **ongoing**.
➔ In cases of an ongoing household exposure, the [CDC recommends](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/family.html) that the exposed household contact begin quarantine at home immediately and continue to quarantine at home throughout the isolation period of the person with COVID-19.
➔ Michael’s last day of exposure to his father (Day 0) is the day his father ends home isolation. If his father is fever-free with improved symptoms on Day 5, he can end home isolation.
  ◆ More information from VDH on [when to end home isolation](https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/).
  ◆ Michael can begin the testing period for Test to Stay after his father ends home isolation, but he must have a negative COVID-19 test after the last exposure to his father and before returning to in-person instruction.
Scenario #4: Cannot mask
Not eligible for TTS

Maya has just turned 2. She was identified as a child care-associated close contact after an exposure to Max, a 22 month old student in her classroom who tested positive for COVID-19. Maya has no symptoms, but is not able to wear a mask consistently or correctly.

➔ Max must go home and ISOLATE (he has COVID-19)
➔ Maya is not eligible for Test to Stay because she is not able to wear a mask. She should QUARANTINE at home for 10 days.
Implementation Checklist

- Test Kits & Supplies
- Staffing
- Coordination with the Local Health Department
- Coordination with the School Support Unit
- Distribute and Store Consent Forms
- Information Sharing
- Identify Eligible Participants
- Monitor Participants
- Distribute Test Kits & Supplies
- Identify & Share Concerns and Solutions
Next steps for child care facilities

➔ Review TTS protocol and guidance
➔ Use implementation guide assess readiness and to begin planning
➔ Contact your local health district to request test kits
➔ Follow up with VDH - join weekly “Office Hours” Tuesdays from 3:00-4:00 pm for questions/concerns
➔ Visit the Child Care Testing - Coronavirus (virginia.gov) for more information
Additional Resources

- Test to Stay Protocol
- Implementation Guide
- Template Sample Test to Stay Parent/Guardian Consent Form
- Template Sample Test to Stay Teacher/Staff Consent Form
- Child Care Facility Test to Stay Checklists
- Daily Monitoring Form
- VDH Overview Guide to eMed-proctored BinaxNOW Antigen At-Home Test Kits
- VDH Parent Guide to use eMed-proctored BinaxNOW Antigen At-Home Test Kits

These resources are available online at: Child Care Testing - Coronavirus (virginia.gov)
Questions?

➔ Contact testinginfo@vdh.virginia.gov