

Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Child Care Facility COVID-19 Testing and Test to Stay Executive Summary

Which COVID-19 test kits are being provided to child care facilities, and how should they be used?

- VDH is supplying local health districts with eMed-proctored BinaxNOW COVID-19 Antigen Card At-Home Test Kits for use by child care facilities. These are rapid antigen tests that determine if a person is currently infected with COVID-19 or not.
- The tests are authorized by the FDA for individuals 2 years of age or older. The tests use a nasal swab and return results in 15 minutes. Test kits must be used with the eMed proctoring service and Certified Guide.
- Test kits may be used for diagnostic testing of an individual who has symptoms of COVID-19 or has been in close contact with someone with COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status. The test kits may also be used for Test to Stay (more information below, including specific eligibility criteria).
- VDH encourages child care facilities to distribute the test kits for at-home use by staff and families. More information on how to use test kits can be found [here](#).

What is Test to Stay?

- [Test to Stay](#) is an option for close contacts of individuals with COVID-19 who are age 2 or older and either not eligible for vaccination or not up to date on COVID-19 vaccines to remain in the child care facility instead of quarantining at home.
- Participants should take a rapid COVID-19 test every day for 5 days after the exposure. If the tests are negative, they are allowed to attend child care. Testing is not required on weekends or holidays.
- Participants should wear a mask at the child care facility for 10 days after the exposure. Masks are not required when the individual is eating, drinking, or sleeping.
- Participants must remain without symptoms for 10 days after the exposure. Individuals who develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19 should isolate at home and not attend the child care facility.
- Child care facilities may consider the use of TTS as an alternative to traditional quarantine to minimize the impact of quarantine and limit program absences.

What are the benefits of enrolling in Test to Stay?

- Participating staff and students may benefit from COVID-19 testing and early identification of COVID-19, and will benefit from being able to continue to attend child care programs in-person.

Who is eligible for Test to Stay?

Students, teachers, and staff who meet all of the following criteria are eligible for Test to Stay:

- 2 years of age or older
- An asymptomatic [close contact](#) of an individual with COVID-19, no matter where the exposure occurred (including exposures at the child care facility, in the community, and in the household)
- Not vaccinated or not up to date on COVID-19 vaccines
- Able to wear a mask at the child care facility for 10 days after the exposure (except when eating, drinking, or sleeping)
- Remain asymptomatic
- Have a signed consent form (by the parent/guardian, if <18 years old)

Who is NOT eligible for Test to Stay?

- Children less than 2 years of age
- Individuals who are up to date on COVID-19 vaccines
- Individuals who test positive for COVID-19
- Individuals who are symptomatic
- Individuals who are not able to wear masks
- All other individuals exempt from quarantine (including asymptomatic close contacts who recently had COVID-19 in the last 6 months, or contacts of a close contact)