

COVID-19 Test-to-Stay (TTS) Program

Approved by the Onondaga County Health Department on January 14, 2022

Background:

Pursuant to its authority under New York Public Health Law and related regulations, and in connection with the New York State Department of Health memorandum dated December 3, 2021 concerning [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”](#) as well as the [letter dated January 10, 2022 from the NYS Commissioner of Health regarding COVID quarantine and isolation in the school setting](#), the Onondaga County Health Department (OCHD) has determined that schools in Onondaga County may implement Test-to-Stay (TTS) plans, subject to the approval of OCHD and compliance with the requirements set forth below.

What is Test-to-Stay?

Test-to-Stay is defined as follows: *Students who are unvaccinated against COVID-19 and who are exposed to COVID-19 at school may attend in-person classes (instruction/academic periods), even while under mandatory quarantine orders, if: (1) the student is symptom-free, (2) the school has received consent for the student to undergo daily testing, and (3) the student tests negative on each school day for five (5) days after exposure.*

Manlius Pebble Hill School’s Test-to-Stay program will adhere to the requirements set forth by the OCHD:

- MPH will TTS results to the [NYS Covid-19 School Report Card](#). These results will be in addition to the data MPH already submits on a regular basis as required under the public health law.
- Tests will be provided at no cost to the person being tested.
- All students and employees of MPH are eligible to participate in the TTS program.
- MPH will use *universal testing consent* to conduct a variety of testing and screening tools to control the spread of Covid-19. (MPH parents / guardians have already provided this universal testing consent; no further registration is required.)
- Testing is administered by our trained members of the Health and Safety Team.
- Tests are submitted to the NYS Health Commerce – ECLRS system by the MPH Health and Safety Team. This team has been completing all testing and data entry since the beginning of the pandemic.
- Designated Testing Sites: Tests will be conducted in the nurse’s office, the Health and Safety office, or the designated testing area of the Center for Early Learning (CEL).

Manlius Pebble Hill School

Testing Process and Protocol

Testing will be conducted immediately upon the student or employee's arrival to campus. They will report to one of three designated testing sites (see above) to complete a rapid antigen test. Individuals will be held in an isolation area until the results are known. They may proceed to class / work once their negative test result has been confirmed.

If the individual tests positive:

- They will be escorted to the MPH Isolation Room.
- The parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student will be contacted and instructed to pick up their child from school immediately.
- Employees who test positive will be sent home immediately.
- Students who are isolated at home may access their classes via simulcast access.
- MPH will conduct timely, school-based contact tracing for each positive case.

Important Details of the TTS Program

- Students and employees may not come to school with symptoms of Covid-19. If an individual develops symptoms during the TTS period, they will be required to stay home until they are asymptomatic and cleared using a PCR test.
- Exposed individuals who are allowed to remain in school through TTS must remain quarantined outside of school instruction/academic periods. Community activities or extracurricular participation (sports, clubs, arts/performance activities, etc.) after school, on weekends, and on holidays are not permitted.
- Unvaccinated students who choose not to participate in TTS will be required to quarantine per [the OCHD guidelines for isolation and quarantine](#).
- Universal masking continues to be required for everyone while on the school campus.
- On-campus PCR surveillance testing (pooled) or diagnostic testing for symptomatic individuals, processed through Quadrant Labs, will continue under OCHD's current guidance.
- Students or staff with medical exemptions from testing or mask wearing may not participate in the TTS program.

Testing Frequency Table

Start Date:

1 Day After Exposure (Day 1)
2 Days After Exposure (Day 2)
3 Days After Exposure (Day 3)
4 Days After Exposure (Day 4)
5 Days After Exposure (Day 5)

Test Dates:

Days 1 – 5
Days 2 – 5
Days 3 – 5
Days 4 – 5
Days 5 – 5