



HOPKINS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
412 North Kentucky Ave. P.O. Box 1266
Madisonville, Ky. 42431 • (270) 821-5242 Telephone

Dawson Springs Independent Schools
Guidance on Test to Stay Strategy:

Purpose:

To provide guidance to local school administrators and school health practitioners in administering the Test to Stay Strategy for students or staff who are contacts of confirmed cases of SARS-CoV2 (COVID-19). Tests must be administered within the school setting or school plan.

Hopkins County Health Department Guidance:

If a local school system chooses to implement a Test to Stay Strategy after a student or staff member has had a school related exposure to a confirmed case of SARS-CoV2 (COVID-19), The Hopkins County Health Department makes the following recommendations:

- * Test to Stay should only be used on asymptomatic non-vaccinated contacts,
- * The test should be performed by a licensed healthcare provider,
- * Testing should be performed with an FDA approved machine/device,
- * Testing should be performed daily and at a minimum of days 1-6 following exposure. If testing cannot be performed on the first days following exposure, it should begin as soon as possible and at the earliest end on the sixth day from initial exposure,
- * Testing is recommended to be performed a minimum of 24 hours apart,
- * If days 1-6 fall on a weekend, testing may not be performed on those days,
- * If the test result is negative, the contact may remain at school with a mask on at all times. If test is positive, contact must be sent home immediately.
- * Participation in this program is voluntary and the school is responsible for making the appropriate arrangements for the testing to be done.
- * Data should be shared with the health department weekly on the number of individuals participating in the program and the number who have turned positive and identified as a result of this testing strategy.
- * If an increase of positive cases occurs in the school setting it could be because of school exposures and the school district should consult with the health dept. to determine if the Test to Stay method should be continued.
- * Test and stay is designed for the daily school setting only, when all protocols can be enforced and monitored (masking, distancing, etc.). **IT IS NOT FOR USE FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, PE, BAND, SPORTS, ETC.**
- * Test and stay should **ONLY** be used on school based related contacts only. Home and outside contacts are often too numerous and continuous which impact the situation greatly.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- * Why does the test to stay not include allowing participation in extracurricular and/or after school activities? Many extracurricular activities, especially sports, require close contact where protocols are difficult to follow and/or enforce. This causes a significant elevated risk. When in school, protocols such as masking, distancing, etc. are much more easily followed and enforced which significantly lessens normal risk.
- * Why are only school related contacts eligible for test and stay? Contacts in a student's home or household are typically ongoing, regular, and in many instances close contacts without regular protocols. This means that the potential spread inside the household on a repeated basis is possible. On school contacts, the protocols that are practiced regularly significantly reduce the repeated and regular contact someone may have at home.