

Test to Stay

Updated January 26, 2022

This document provides guidance from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to local public health authorities (LPHAs) and school districts, charter schools, and private schools on how to implement ‘test to stay.’ The goal of test to stay is to allow students and staff to participate in in-person learning as safely as possible while lessening the burden of quarantine on students and their families, teachers, and school administrators.

What is Required for Test to Stay?

Schools need to:

- [Register](#) for the OHA Diagnostic testing program.
- Identify and train school testing administrator(s) and a school testing reporter to administer and report all tests. The school testing administrator(s) do not need to be a healthcare professional but must complete all required online training modules for the antigen test and carefully review all training regarding personal protective equipment (PPE) use.
- Obtain parental [consent](#) for testing (this is complete if already registered for OHA’s diagnostic testing program).

Schools will Determine which Testing Programs to Offer Students and Staff.

The school district, charter school, or private school, in consultation with the local public health authority, may determine which testing programs, including test to stay, to offer students. All testing programs are optional and free to schools. Visit [Oregon’s COVID-19 testing in K-12 schools](#) for an overview of all testing programs.

Who Should Participate in Test to Stay?

Test to stay is for students or staff *subject to quarantine* who:

- Are determined to be a close contact to a COVID-19 positive case in a school setting in which universal masking is in place.
- Are free of any COVID-19 symptoms.

Schools Must Get Parental Permission Prior to Testing.

All students must have written [consent](#) on file prior to receiving COVID-19 testing. OHA requires written consent from a parent and/or guardian for all students under the age of 15 receiving the BinaxNOW test. Schools may choose to allow 15 – 17-year-olds to consent to receiving a test under ORS 109.640(2)(a). Staff may give verbal consent at the time of testing. Staff are not required to have a consent form on file in order to be tested for COVID-19.



All Test Results Must Be Reported to the Oregon Health Authority.

OHA requires positive COVID-19 test results to be reported daily. Schools must submit test results through the OHA K-12 Reporting Portal available [here](#). Schools should utilize the How to Use the K-12 School COVID-19 Reporting Portal guide [here](#).



Actions to be Taken Based on the Person's Test Results:

All Students and Staff

The Oregon Health Authority mandates all students and staff who test negative and continue attending in-person instruction during the modified quarantine period wear masks while at school and during K-12 extracurricular activities.

Test Positive

Students or staff who test positive must isolate at home *for at least 5 days*. They may return to in-person learning after they complete their isolation period.

Test Negative

Students or staff may continue in-person learning if they test negative and do not have any symptoms of COVID-19. *They must wear a well-fitting mask during all activities for 10 days following the exposure.*

Did Not Participate

Families who do not give consent to testing should quarantine at home *for 5-days, watching for COVID-19 symptoms and seek testing 5 days after the exposure.*



Exposure to Someone Who Tests Positive.

Testing may be implemented for any student or staff member who is exposed to COVID-19 in a K-12 setting if *subject to quarantine*.

- Unvaccinated students or staff close contacts should be tested twice during the **5** days following exposure. The first test should occur as soon as the exposure is identified and prior to the return to school. The second test should occur between days **3-5** following the exposure.
- All close contacts should watch for symptoms of COVID-19 for **10** days following their last exposure. If an exposed individual develops symptoms of COVID-19 within **10** days following their last exposure, they should isolate and be tested regardless of vaccination status.



Testing Resources

Testing for test to stay *may* occur using the Abbott BinaxNOW *or iHealth* resources provided to schools by OHA, *or through clinical partners offering COVID-19 testing*. K-12 screening testing performed through one of Oregon's four regional laboratory partners may be used for the second test *if that regular screening would normally occur 3-5 days following the exposure*.

Questions

For more information regarding test to stay visit [Oregon's COVID-19 Testing in K-12](#) school or email SchoolTesting.COVID@dhsosha.state.or.us.