



Test to Stay FAQs

(11-23-2021)

Q: What is the purpose of test to stay?

Test to stay is a testing program which allows students and staff without symptoms to remain in Oregon's K-12 schools during their quarantine period. When this testing is combined with the several layers of mitigation in K-12 settings, including universal masking, physical distancing, cohorting, and ventilation, the risk of transmission in these settings is minimized. The CDC is studying test to stay, and considers it a promising practice for minimizing quarantine and maximizing school days in school.¹

Q: What if a student doesn't have consent on file for testing or refuses to take a test?

Students who do not have consent on file may not be tested. Participation in test to stay is optional and students who refuse to participate may quarantine at home.

Q: If a student is exposed at lunch and isn't wearing a mask, are they eligible to participate?

No; the exposure must occur in a K-12 setting in which universal masking is in place.

Q: If a student is exposed during an extracurricular event and wasn't wearing a mask, are they eligible to participate?

No; the exposure must occur in a K-12 setting in which universal masking is in place.

Q: Can a student take a test at home and be allowed to continue to come to school?

At this time, testing for test to stay must occur using the Abbott BinaxNOW resources provided to schools by OHA. K-12 screening testing performed through one of Oregon's four regional laboratory partners may be used for the second test. The Abbott BinaxNOW testing is only available at schools. Oregon hopes to launch a self-test/at home testing option for test to stay but has not yet been able to secure testing resources for this.

¹ Source: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/admin-faq.html#anchor_1634072007476

Q: Can a student take a test at a community testing site and be allowed to continue to come to school?

At this time, testing for test to stay must occur using the Abbott BinaxNOW resources provided to schools by OHA. K-12 screening testing performed through one of Oregon's four regional laboratory partners may be used for the second test. The Abbott BinaxNOW testing is only available at schools. Oregon hopes to launch a self-test/at home testing option for test to stay but has not yet been able to secure testing resources for this.

Q: What is the optimal timing for the first test?

The first test should occur as soon as the exposure has been identified—because of delays in testing and case reporting, this may be several days following the actual exposure. Importantly, the first test should occur before students and staff are allowed to return to the classroom.

Q: What is the optimal timing for the second test?

The second test should occur between days 5-7 following the exposure. This range allows for consideration of weekends as well as timing since the first test was performed.

Q: Should fully vaccinated students and staff participate in this program?

Fully vaccinated individuals are not subject to quarantine and do not require test to stay to continue attending school following an exposure.

Q: If my school is enrolled in the diagnostic testing program, do we need to enroll separately to participate in test to stay?

No; if your school is enrolled in the diagnostic testing program you may begin participating in test to stay using the tests you have on hand.

Q: How do I get more tests?

When a school's supply is low, the School Testing Administrator or School Testing Reporter should contact their district office to receive additional tests. Private schools, superintendents, or their delegee, can submit a new order for their district [here](#). An email confirming receipt of the order will be sent and the BinaxNOW tests will arrive within 7-10 business days. It is the responsibility of the Superintendent, or their delegee, to verify that the school has registered separately with OHA.

Q: Can we use additional school staff or volunteers to facilitate high-volume testing?

If you need to add additional School Testing Administrators or School Testing Reporters to facilitate high-volume testing, please inform OHA of the additions by emailing schooltesting.covid@dhsosha.state.or.us. All School Testing Administrators must complete all required online training modules for the BinaxNOW point-of-care antigen test and carefully review all training regarding personal protective equipment (PPE) use before testing.

Q: Should testing occur more frequently than twice in the 7-day period?

There are several test to stay protocols with different testing frequencies that are currently being piloted nationwide. In choosing to test twice weekly, we considered the low-risk nature of these exposures due to universal masking and other mitigation strategies in K-12 settings, available testing capacity and feasibility of implementation. We believe that twice weekly testing is appropriate.

Q: How effective are the BinaxNOW tests at detecting COVID-19 in persons without symptoms?

The BinaxNOW rapid antigen tests work well to detect infection in individuals with high viral loads of COVID-19 — and who are most likely to be actively transmitting the virus to others. Additionally, the Delta variant of COVID-19 is associated with higher viral loads of COVID-19 and BinaxNOW tests likely work better to detect infection in individuals infected with the Delta variant. More than 99% of all COVID-19 variants in Oregon are currently Delta.

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