

January 7, 2022

Dear BSCSD Parents, Caregivers, Faculty, and Staff: As we have noted in recent *Updates*, New York State has provided the district with a supply of [antigen rapid test kits](#) with the singular goal of keeping our schools open for our students who are otherwise healthy. Because of the difficulty of obtaining tests to this point, we wanted to be very thoughtful about how we would utilize them so as to maximize student and staff health which allows us to maintain *our* goal of in-person learning for all students. With this in mind, please be aware that:

- No one is obligated to use these tests. This is a staff member or parent choice.
- These are one of many approved tests that may be used for the purposes below.
- **Saratoga County is allowing approved antigen rapid tests to be used *in place of a lab-based antigen or PCR test so that a student/staff member may stay in school or return to school, depending on the circumstances noted below.***
- Tests will be distributed to staff and families after school on Monday, January 10, 2022 at the Wood Road Complex. We will send additional details on Monday morning. ***Parents, please complete the form attached to this document which you will bring with you to pick up tests on Monday.***

## Test Uses:

1. **For a “Close Contact” under the Saratoga County Test to Stay Modified Quarantine Plan** (see attached): Individuals who have been exposed to a positive case but who do not have symptoms no longer have to quarantine at home if they participate in *Test to Stay*. Under this plan.
  - a. *When notified while at home* that a student or a staff member is a close contact, parents must administer/staff members must take two tests over a 5-7 day period from first exposure which, if negative, allow the individual to stay at school/work. Please follow the timeline on the County document for when to test. Once a test is complete, parents/staff members will need to complete an [attestation form](#) which is on the Saratoga County Public Health Portal.
  - b. If a student is identified as a close contact *during the school day* and is asymptomatic, parents will be contacted by the school to discuss options including the reporting processes.
  - c. By [NYS rule](#), students in *Test to Stay* may not participate in club or sport activities either in school or in the community. Districts are advocating with state officials for a change in this rule to make it consistent with other school activities (e.g., physical education class).
  - d. If a student/staff member tests positive, they are no longer in *Test to Stay* and must begin [isolation](#).
2. **To Address a Symptomatic Individual:** If a student or staff member presents with [symptoms](#) while *at school/on the school bus*, the School Nurse will discuss symptoms with parents/the staff member and determine whether the individual is otherwise fine to stay in school (e.g., has mild symptoms and is fever free) **or** needs to go home (e.g., significant cough, fever above 100.4, and/or sore throat that presents as possible strep). In either case, a test may be conducted by the school with parent permission or at home by the parent. A second test must be completed within 24-48 hours. If either the first or

second test result is positive, mandatory isolation is required and the individual must complete the [Affirmation of Isolation](#) form for Saratoga County. Staff members who do not live in Saratoga County must follow their county rules.

3. **As a Negative Confirmation Test after Testing Positive:** When an individual tests positive from *any* approved COVID test they must begin [isolation](#) and complete the [Affirmation of Isolation](#) form for Saratoga County. (Staff members who do not live in Saratoga County must follow their county rules.) An individual whose symptoms are improving or who is asymptomatic may then [exit isolation](#) beginning on day 6 from the onset of symptoms at which point they *may* want to test, but this is not required. When exiting from isolation, parents and staff members are reminded to complete the [Completion of Isolation](#) form from Saratoga County. Staff members who do not live in Saratoga County must follow their county rules.

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