Allegany COUNTY New York

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

County Office Building,
7 Court Street, Room #30
Belmont, New York 14813
Phone: (585) 268-9250
Fax: (585) 268-9264

TO: Allegany County Media and Agencies
FROM: Jami D'Arcy, Deputy Public Health Director
RE: Updates on COVID-19 School Test to Stay (TTS)
DATE: January 7, 2022
News Release: Updates on COVID-19 Test-To-Stay (TTS) Guidance

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) has updated the guidance for Test-To-Stay (TTS) for P-12 schools. At this time, the Allegany County Department of Health has decided to **adopt** this guidance. Individual School Districts can opt-in/out based on logistical means and other determining factors.

The complete guidance from the New York State Department of Health is available at:
https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/12/testtostay-memo_12-23-21.pdf

TTS is a strategy that allows asymptomatic unvaccinated school-based close contacts (e.g. students, teachers, school staff) to avoid school exclusion (but not other restrictions of quarantine) by testing negative through serial testing using rapid NAAT or antigen tests during a five-day period following exposure.

For those School Districts opting-in, the following guidelines must be followed:

***School Districts are to maintain a written policy that addresses each of the following:**

- The exposure must have occurred in the school setting and while both the positive and contact were consistently and properly masked.
- The contact remains asymptomatic; if the contact develops symptoms, they must be immediately excluded from school.
- The contact is tested a minimum of two times during the five-day period following exposure, per the table below.
- The five-day period is measured in calendar days where the last date of exposure is considered day 0. The first test should be done as soon as possible after exposure is identified.
- Includes actions to follow-up on transmission (e.g., contact tracing) in the event that an individual tests positive.
- The test must be conducted—and the results received—before the school day begins by a Faculty/Staff member of the School District.
- The contact is allowed to remain in school but must be quarantined outside of school (on weekends/holidays, after school/evenings; no community activities or extracurricular participation including clubs, sports, arts/performance activities, etc.).
- Students **may ride the bus** but it is **STRONGLY recommended** that individuals participating in this program are not allowed to ride the bus to school in the case of a positive test result, and the parent/guardian must then pick up the child. If the student is negative, they may ride the bus home.

Minimum Testing Cadences		
Day of First Test	**Day of Second Test**	**Day of Third Test**
0	2 or 3	5
1	3	5
2	4	5
3	5	N/A
4	5	N/A
5	N/A	N/A

For additional information please call your School District or visit the County webpage at www.alleganyco.com and look under Coronavirus Information where you can find links to guidance documents and other helpful resources.

###

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.