
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MEMO

TO: PCCS COMMUNITY
SUBJECT: TEST TO STAY AND SYMPTOMATIC SCREENING
DATE: OCTOBER 18, 2021

Dear PCCS Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

We are constantly looking at ways to evolve our practice when it comes to the health and safety of all at PCCS. Our partnership with the Lake County Health Department helps us add to the mitigation layers already in place. PCCS is adopting the *Test-to-Stay Program* and *Rapid Antigen Testing* of symptomatic students. We believe this will be to our benefit as we enter the colder months.

What is Test-to-Stay?

Test-to-stay is a pilot program that has been implemented by the LCHD to support in-person learning. When students and staff are identified as close contacts at school and/or school activities, they can test on days 1, 3, 5, 7 after exposure and continue to attend class if they test negative through the process and remain asymptomatic.

What kind of Testing does this involve?

Testing will be done utilizing the Abbott BINAXnow Rapid Antigen kits provided from the health department. Collecting a specimen for testing involves using a shallow swab, similar to a Q-Tip, placed inside the tip of the nose. A trained school nurse will collect the specimen and will oversee the process. Results take approximately 15 minutes.

Please watch the following [video to learn more about Test to Stay](#)

Some notes about Test to Stay:

1. Test to Stay is only applicable when both the confirmed COVID-19 case and close contact were engaged in “consistent and correct use of well-fitting masks, regardless of vaccination status”
2. Test to Stay may only be used for **in school or school-sponsored event exposures**, for unvaccinated and/or partially vaccinated individuals.
3. Test to Stay DOES NOT apply for non-school related event exposures (i.e. clubs or team practice)
4. Test to Stay DOES NOT apply for household exposures. Siblings of those who test positive for COVID-19 cannot participate in this program and must quarantine at home for a minimum of 10 days.

[More info on Test to Stay](#)

Symptomatic Screening:

Additionally, the BinaxNOW rapid antigen tests can help in identifying COVID-positive students who become symptomatic during the school day. “Due to wide-ranging symptoms associated with COVID-19 infection and the frequency with which children are likely to display one or more of these symptoms, rapid POC tests may be useful diagnostic tools for testing persons in the early stages of infection with SARS-CoV-2 when viral load is generally highest.”(1) Opting in to this program will allow trained staff to perform testing and results within 15 minutes.

No matter the result, please be aware that your child is still unwell and will need to go home for the remainder of the day. It is beneficial to know earlier when someone is positive as to minimize the amount of potential close contacts.

A positive test is considered a true positive, and your child will need to quarantine for the minimum of 10 days as per LCHD guidance. A negative test after the positive test will not negate the positive and your child will still need to quarantine.

However, a negative rapid test in conjunction with COVID-like symptoms will still need to be evaluated by a medical professional, **as well as** followed up with a more accurate molecular PCR test prior to any return to PCCS. As has been the practice, you must email or fax the results to scoyle@pccharterschool.org in order to be okayed for return.

Next Steps:

Beginning today, the opt-in option will be available in powerschool.

1. To get started, you will need to log in to your PowerSchool account [Student and Parent Sign In \(powerschool.com\)](#),
2. Click on forms and complete the COVID Testing Options form.
3. There are two selections: *Test to Stay* and *Symptomatic Screening*.
4. If you have multiple children enrolled and would like to submit the same response for everyone, you can click on the arrow next to Submit and select “Submit for Family”.
5. You will have to opt-in to these testing programs, if you do not make the selections as of 10/21/21, your child(ren) will be considered opted out.

Sample screenshot:

The screenshot displays the PowerSchool SIS interface. At the top, the logo for PowerSchool SIS is visible on the left, and the user's name, "Welcome, Frances Verenski", along with "Help" and "Sign Out" links, is on the right. A navigation sidebar on the left lists various school-related functions such as "Alerting", "SwiftReach", "Grades and Attendance", "Grade History", "Attendance History", "Email Notification", "Teacher Comments", "Forms", "School Bulletin", "Class Registration", "My Calendars", "Account Preferences", and "PowerSchool Registration". The main content area shows a form titled "COVID Testing Options". At the top of the form, it states "There are no previous responses to this form." Below this, there are two sections: "Test-to-Stay" and "Symptomatic Screening". Each section includes a brief description and a "Please select your choice" prompt with two radio button options: "Yes, my child will participate when needed" and "No, my child will opt-out". At the bottom of the form, there are two buttons: "Save for Later" and "Submit".

Thank you for helping keep our community safe.

PCCS Administration