

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 inperson 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.

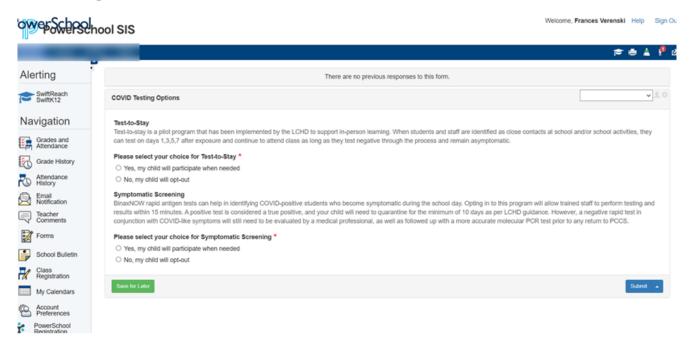
However, a negative rapid test in conjunction with COVID-like symptoms will still need to be evaluated by a medical professional, **as well as** followed up with a more accurate molecular PCR test prior to any return to PCCS. As has been the practice, you must email or fax the results to scoyle@pccharterschool.org 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 <u>Student and Parent Sign In (powerschool.com)</u>,
- 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 <u>opt-in</u> to these testing programs, if you do not make the selections as of <u>10/21/21</u>, your child(ren) will be considered opted out.

Sample screenshot:



Thank you for helping keep our community safe.

PCCS Administration