

# Grand Island Central School District

1100 Ransom Road • Grand Island, New York 14072  
Telephone (716) 773-8800 • Fax (716) 773-6279  
[www.grandislandschools.org](http://www.grandislandschools.org)

November 29, 2021

Dear Grand Island Families:

The Grand Island Central School District was selected to participate in a "Test to Stay" pilot program in partnership with the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH). This pilot program will begin on Monday, December 6, and continue throughout December.

The "Test to Stay" pilot program will be available for any of our students who are identified as close contacts of a COVID-19 case from a school exposure and who are also not fully vaccinated.

A parent will have the choice to opt in to the "Test to Stay" pilot program by bringing their child to school, before the beginning of the day, where a medical professional from Buffalo Homecare will conduct a 15-minute rapid COVID-19 test. If the test result is negative, the student would attend school that day. If the test result is positive, the student would be excluded from school and placed in isolation at home. This pilot program will continue for the duration of the child's quarantine.

As part of this pilot program, students with household or community exposure are not eligible, nor are school staff.

The district is pleased to participate in the pilot "Test to Stay" program. For our students who are identified as a close contact with a person who is positive with COVID-19, the "Test to Stay" strategy will maximize the time learning in the classroom; provide important social, nutritional, and mental health supports; and maintain routines for families who struggle with child care and transportation.

If you have any questions on how to participate in the "Test to Stay" pilot program, please contact your child's school for more information.

As always, we thank you for your support as we look to increase the continuity of learning for our students who are identified as close contacts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B. Graham', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Brian Graham, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

## Grand Island Central School District

Student First and Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your child's gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Choose the child's Race/Ethnicity:

- American Indian or Alaska Native       Asian       Hispanic or Latino  
 Black or African American       Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander  
 White       Multi-racial

Your child has been exposed to an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19. Your child is eligible to participate in the **“Test to Stay” (TTS) pilot program**. In order for your child to be allowed into this TTS pilot, please complete this permission form and return it to the school nurse. Please read all attachments carefully.

I have read and understand the following: My child has not been fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

- His/her COVID-19 exposure(s) occurred during instruction at school or during bus transportation to or from instruction. Students whose COVID-19 exposures occurred outside of school instruction or bus transportation to or from instruction are not eligible during the TTS pilot.
  - Students with household COVID-19 exposures (e.g., siblings) are not eligible for the TTS protocol.
- The COVID-19 infected student and the COVID-19 exposed student must have consistently and correctly worn well-fitting masks during the exposure.
- The COVID-19 exposed student has not developed any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 at any time since their exposure.
- The COVID-19 exposed student must correctly wear well-fitting masks in school at all times, other than when eating or drinking. When these students cannot be masked, they should maintain 6 feet of distance from other individuals, whenever possible. Maintaining 6 feet of distance is required when eating or drinking inside.
- Have an FDA-authorized COVID-19 rapid antigen test administered each school day by an appropriately trained school employee or healthcare provider and receive a negative COVID-19 result prior to reporting to class. On days when school is not open (e.g. weekends, holidays), COVID-19 testing is not required.
  - At home COVID-19 tests do not qualify for this TTS protocol.
  - If the student's qualifying exposure becomes known during the school day, the child must receive a negative COVID-19 antigen test result before departing on a school bus.
  - If the student's qualifying exposure becomes known outside the school day, the student must receive a negative COVID-19 viral test (e.g. rapid antigen, PCR) before boarding a school bus the next school day. Parents/guardians may also choose to drive the student to school for their initial test.
- As a parent/guardian I agree to

- Conduct active COVID-19 monitoring (explicitly asking the student about COVID-19 signs and symptoms each day before and after school
- Immediately contact my child's healthcare provider and ECDOH at 716-858-6525 if any COVID-19 symptoms develop.
- Promptly pick up their child from school, should they test COVID-19 positive or develop COVID-19 symptoms during school instruction.
- Permit in person, daily COVID-19 testing for my child at school through the duration of quarantine.

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Parent Name (Print)

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Parent Signature

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Date

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## Information on Test to Stay

### **Subject: Test to Stay - Keeping students in school instead of quarantine**

Our school district is participating in a “Test to Stay” (TTS) pilot program with the Erie County Department of Health.

#### **What does “test to stay” (TTS) mean?**

If a child has been in close contact with a COVID-19 positive student, instead of quarantined students staying at home for ten days, TTS allows students to attend school as long as they have no symptoms and test COVID-19 negative daily with parent permission.

#### **How will TTS work for our students?**

Normal COVID-19 contact tracing will take place. Administrators and/or nurses will contact families of students who are considered close contacts to COVID-19. A parent can agree to allow their child to be tested daily for COVID-19 in school as an alternative to quarantining during school hours. Students will arrive at school before the day begins and report directly to the designated area for COVID-19 testing. A negative COVID-19 test will allow students to remain in school. If a student tests COVID-19 positive, the parent and/or guardian will be required to bring their child home and keep their child in isolation.

#### **Who is eligible for this TTS program?**

All K-12 students who would be placed in quarantine because of a classroom, lunch room or school transportation setting COVID-19 exposure, with the exception of family members in the same household, are eligible. Siblings of a COVID-19 positive student will need to quarantine and will be eligible for remote learning.

I truly believe that it is in the best interest of students and families to maintain in-person classroom learning as much as possible. As always, parents have the right to quarantine instead of test for COVID-19, but we want to make this option available to release the burden of quarantine of our students.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through all processes this year. We hope that this partnership with Erie County will keep our students in the school.

*Continued on the next page.*

## Test to Stay Program Summary

**Eligibility:** To receive a **modified quarantine** order that allows in-person instruction, a student must meet all of the following criteria:

- Have not been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and under a quarantine order issued by ECDOH.
- His/her COVID-19 exposure(s) occurred during instruction at school or during bus transportation to or from instruction. Students whose COVID-19 exposures occurred outside of school instruction or bus transportation to or from instruction are not eligible during the TTS pilot.
  - Students with household exposures (e.g. siblings) are not eligible for the TTS protocol.
- The COVID-19 infected student and the exposed student must have consistently and correctly worn well-fitting masks during the exposure.
- Not be associated with a cluster or outbreak, as determined by ECDOH.
- Have not developed any COVID-19 signs or symptoms at any time since their exposure.
- Correctly wear well-fitting masks in school at all times, other than when eating or drinking. When these students cannot be masked, they should maintain 6 feet of distance from other individuals, whenever possible. Maintaining 6 feet of distance is required when eating or drinking inside.
- Have an FDA authorized COVID-19 rapid antigen test administered each school day by an appropriately trained school employee or healthcare provider and receive a negative COVID-19 test result prior to reporting to class. On days when school is not open (e.g. weekends, holidays), COVID-19 testing is not required.
  - At home COVID-19 tests do not qualify for this protocol.
  - If the student's qualifying COVID-19 exposure becomes known during the school day, the child must receive a negative COVID-19 rapid antigen test result before departing on a school bus.
  - If the student's qualifying COVID-19 exposure becomes known outside the school day, the student must receive a negative COVID-19 viral test (e.g. rapid antigen, PCR) before boarding a school bus the next school day. Parents/guardians may also choose to drive the student to school for their initial test.
- Has a parent/guardian who agrees to:
  - Conduct active COVID-19 symptoms monitoring (explicitly asking the student about COVID-19 symptoms) each day before and after school.
  - Immediately contact the child's healthcare provider and ECDOH at (716) 858-6525 if any COVID-19 symptoms develop.
  - Promptly pick up their child from school who tests COVID-19 positive or develops COVID-19 signs or symptoms during school instruction.
  - Keep the student at the location specified in their quarantine order when not attending in-school instruction.