

METHACTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

RECOMMENDATION TO PARTICIPATE IN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH/CHOP
STUDENT MODIFIED QUARANTINE/TEST TO STAY PROGRAM

Modified Quarantine (Test to Stay)

Purpose

- Provide alternative option for families when a student is identified as a close contact within the school
 - Maintains continuity of in person attendance at school
 - Provides for greater assurance for student and family

Current Challenge for Close Contacts

Rules for vaccinated students vs unvaccinated students

- Vaccinated students may continue attending in person so long as they do not exhibit symptoms
- Unvaccinated students must quarantine for up to 10 days based on initial exposure (regardless of symptom status).

Impact (as of 10/14/21)

- 213
- Arrowhead – 53
 - Eagleville – 51
 - Woodland – 77
 - Worcester – 32
 - Skyview – 52
 - Arcola – 94
 - High School – 271

Options for Families of Unvaccinated

Option 1 – Standard Quarantine Process (no testing)

Option 2 – Modified Quarantine Process (testing/parental consent)

Process

Student has been identified as a close contact

School Nurse confirms vaccination and symptom status of all close contacts

Parents/guardians of asymptomatic unvaccinated student close contacts are called and offered the two options.

- If parent chooses Option 1 (Standard Quarantine Process (no testing)) the child is placed in the schools isolation room until parent arrives and the child will return to school following the County prescribed quarantine period. Student work will be sent home and/or via Google Classroom.
- If parent chooses Option 2 (Modified Quarantine Process (testing/parental consent) the child is placed in the schools isolation room until such time the parent provides the consent in writing.
 - Based on the needs and considerations of the child, testing will be administered using the County/CHOP approved shallow nasal swab BinaxNOW rapid antigen test.
 - Results will be provided to the parent.
 - Negative result will allow the child to remain in school.
 - Positive result will require parent to pick up child and seek additional testing/quarantine.

Modified Quarantine (Test to Stay)

Quick, non-invasive shallow nasal swab sample collected at school under the supervision of a school nurse or trained health provider using the BinaxNOW rapid antigen test.

Tests are administered every other day

Could be as many as 4 tests per child

Administration of Test will follow:

- Student pulls mask down below their nose.
- A small Q-tip will go a short distance into one side of the child's nose and circled around for about 10-15 seconds. The same thing will happen on the other side of your nose.



Testing Administration Considerations

Required parental consent (consent can be withdrawn at anytime)

Age and development of student

Communication and sensory considerations

Previous health care experiences

Provide student examples or demonstrations

Include other caring adults for support

Feelings validation

Other

Staffing

Seeking contracted services

- 1 nurse 4-5 days weekly
- 1 support/lay person to assist nurse (same schedule)

Costs

Testing materials covered by CHOP/County

Staffing covered by ESSR's grant – projected = \$1,664 /wk

Recommendation

Approved the Methacton School District participation in the Montgomery County Department of Public Health/CHOP directed Test to Stay (modified quarantine) program beginning November 2021.

Following approval:

Inform the County regarding participation

Secure staffing

Send communication to families informing them of this option

Issue parental permission forms at time of close contact notification