



## Young Women's College Prep Charter School

133 Hoover Street  
Rochester, NY 14615  
Telephone (585) 254-0320

January 5, 2021

Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

Pursuant to authority granted to local health departments by the New York State Department of Health, the **Monroe County Department of Public Health** is authorizing the establishment of a limited Test to Stay option in all public, charter, and private Monroe County Pre-K through 12 schools. This recommendation is based on the recognition that masking, social distancing, and other protective measures are closely monitored in schools, making community transmission of COVID-19 less likely compared to most other public and private places. MCDPH may revoke this authorization at any time.

### **WHAT DOES "TEST TO STAY" MEAN?**

In Monroe County, Test to Stay is defined as follows: Students who are unvaccinated against COVID-19 and are exposed to COVID-19 may attend in-person classes, even while under mandatory quarantine orders, if: (1) They are symptom-free, (2) The school has received consent for the student to undergo daily testing for a defined period and (3) The student tests negative each school day during the defined period.

### **IF AN UNVACCINATED STUDENT PARTICIPATES IN TEST TO STAY, IS THE STUDENT NO LONGER SUBJECT TO MANDATORY QUARANTINE?**

No. The student is still subject to mandatory quarantine at all other times. When an unvaccinated student has been exposed to COVID-19, Monroe County will issue a mandatory quarantine order, requiring the student to quarantine for 10 days following the exposure. The student will be allowed to break this quarantine to attend school for classroom instruction and activities during regular school instruction/academic hours.

### **CAN TTS STUDENTS ALSO PARTICIPATE IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES?**

No. Extracurricular activities such as sports, clubs and other activities taking place after school, evenings or holidays are not permitted under Test to Stay. Students participating in Test to Stay may only attend instructional/academic periods during the regular school day. They must remain in quarantine at all other times. The student must always wear a mask while indoors including the playing or performance areas, sidelines, locker rooms, hallways, etc. At all other times, the student must remain in mandatory quarantine until released by Monroe County. Non-school activities outside of the home during quarantine are not allowed. This includes social events, private lessons, non-school sports, playdates, sleepovers, etc.

### **DO VACCINATED STUDENTS NEED TO PARTICIPATE IN TEST TO STAY AFTER COVID-19 EXPOSURE?**

No, vaccinated students who have no symptoms can continue with in-person learning without daily testing.

### **HOW OFTEN WILL STUDENTS BE TESTED UNDER TEST TO STAY?**

Students will be subject to testing a minimum of three times during the 7 days immediately after exposure to COVID-19. In addition:

1. The exposure must have occurred **in the school setting** and while both the person with COVID-19 (index patient) and exposed person were consistently and properly masked.
2. The exposed person remains asymptomatic; if the exposed person who is allowed to remain in school through TTS develops symptoms, they must be immediately excluded from school per current school guidance.
3. The exposed person is tested **a minimum of three times during the seven-day period** following exposure, unless recognition of the exposure is delayed or weekends or school breaks intervene. See possible testing regimens below.
4. The 7-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 (i.e., the first day the student is in school after identified exposure)..

### **WHAT KIND OF TEST CAN BE USED FOR TEST TO STAY?**

A rapid Antigen test is recommended for this purpose, but PCR tests are acceptable as well. Tests must be conducted (and results received) before the school day begins; and positive individuals excluded/isolated per existing protocols.

### **CAN TEST TO STAY STUDENTS RIDE THE BUS?**

Yes, they may ride the bus to school wearing a face covering like all students. However, if they test positive, they will need a parent/guardian to pick them up and bring them home.

### **HOW DO I SIGN UP MY UNVACCINATED CHILD(REN) FOR TEST TO STAY?**

You don't. The district will use a daily report provided by Monroe County Department of Public Health to determine eligible students and then contact families impacted to find out if they would like to participate in the Test to Stay.

Sincerely,

YWCP Administration