

- **Option 4: Test to Stay Strategy**, as has been documented by CDC,<sup>4</sup> if schools test close contacts, as defined above, on days one, three, five, and seven from date of exposure by a PCR or rapid antigen or molecular emergency use authorization (EUA)-approved test, close contacts are permitted to remain in the classroom as long as the results are negative. (See [IDPH's Interim Guidance on Testing for COVID-19 in Community Settings and Schools](#) for specific details on testing in schools.)
  - Test to Stay is only applicable when both the COVID-19-confirmed student and close contact were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting masks and the school **requires** universal indoor masking for all individuals (age 2 and older), regardless of vaccination status, as recommended by the CDC.
  - Test to Stay may be used for any indoor exposure, with the exception of household exposures.
  - Students engaged in Test to Stay after an exposure may participate in extracurricular activities. Local health departments have the authority to order a classroom-only Test to Stay protocol after assessing the risk of an individual situation.
  - Because students engaged in the Test to Stay protocol were exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19, they must wear a mask while indoors at school, regardless of the mask policy at school.
  - However, if the close contact is identified five days or more from the date of exposure, adjust testing accordingly, ideally on days five and seven after the last exposure.
  - When testing in the outlined cadence is not possible due to weekends and holidays, students should be tested at the earliest possible opportunity.
  - At the conclusion of the Test to Stay modified quarantine period, the school should notify the local health department that the student has successfully completed testing and remained negative.
  - Local health departments have the authority to assess high-risk exposures and order a traditional quarantine without the option for Test to Stay.
  - If at any time the student tests positive or becomes symptomatic, they should be immediately isolated and sent home, and the local health department notified.