

Test and Stay Information

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Test & Stay Option

Your child will either need to:

- participate in our Test and Stay Program

OR

- be kept out of school to quarantine at home (refer to school nurse for exact dates).

If your child is fully vaccinated, they are exempt from further steps.

Consenting for Test & Stay

It's a must. In order for a student to participate in our Test & Stay program, they **MUST** have a guardian consent completed online.

It seriously only takes 1-2 minutes to complete. Click [HERE](#), or copy and paste this link into your browser: <https://www.cic-health.com/consent/ma#consent>

Test & Stay Program Process

1. Your child will go directly to the **NURSE** and **NOT** to their classrooms.
2. Once seated distanced from each other, the swabbing process will then be explained.
 - How do I explain it? It's actually kind of fun. Honestly, I give the children the option for me to swab their noses or I can help them get it done! The swab is rather small - much smaller than their own fingertips. The swab doesn't have to go very far in their noses - no further than if they were to pick their own noses!
3. Students will be swabbed using the BinaxNOW rapid antigen tests after everything has been explained and all questions answered (it only takes a minute or three).
4. Your child will wait 15 minutes, seated in their designated seats until their tests result negative. This actually gives us time to discuss goals for the day and previous excursions or stories from their evening before!
5. They then head to their classrooms and resume their regular class activities.

6. Due to time constraints, I will **NOT** contact you if your child's test result is negative. I will only contact those that have positive results or like-symptoms of COVID-19. If you have not heard from me, assume your child is NEGATIVE.

Negative COVID-19 Test Result

- Due to time constraints, I will **NOT** contact you if your child's test result is negative. I will only contact those that have positive results or like-symptoms of COVID-19.

Positive COVID-19 Test Result

Should your child *test positive* or present with *COVID-19-like symptoms*:

- The child will be isolated in the nursing office. You will then be notified to pick your child up from school as soon as possible.
- Once you arrive at the school, please call the Main Number:

978-388-3659 - we will then bring your child out TO YOU at the front main entrance. Please DO NOT ENTER the building.

You will then be notified that day when your child can safely return to school.

My Child's Positive for COVID-19. Now What??

Once a child is deemed positive for COVID-19, a few things need to be done.

1. Take the student directly home and quarantine,
2. Schedule for the child to have a COVID-19 PCR test completed.
3. With guardian consent, I will send an email to you, the principal, the main office and your assigned teacher to let them all know that a student will have an excused absence. See below under "How Can I Notify the Teacher that a Student Will Be Out?"

How Can I Notify the Teacher that My Child Will Be Out?

Here's where I can help! What I like to do, with guardian permission, is to send an email with the student's safe to return date that includes:

- The student **guardian(s)**,
- **Principal** (so Mr. M's aware of the child's *excused absence*),
- **Main Office Secretaries** (these ladies are in charge of documenting absences and keeping track of student whereabouts),
- And to the student's assigned **Teacher**. This way, the teachers know when to expect the student to return to school and provide any work as needed to be sent home.
- With positive cases, I also CC Kristin Tierney (the Amesbury Public Resource Nurse and Tina LaCourse, our local DPH nurse, since they both help me with contact tracing).

RECENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Question: [Can my child still receive their COVID-19 vaccine?](#)

Answer: Unfortunately, no. Yes, the student has been exposed here at school and can participate in school-based activities but should otherwise be quarantining at home. I have spoken to Tina LaCourse with the Department of Public Health and if you're considered a close contact, side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine could mask actual symptoms of the virus if you've been identified as a close contact.

Question: [Can my child still take the bus?](#)

Answer: Yes. Your child can still take the bus as long as they abide by DESE/DPH standards. They need to practice social distancing and wear their masks. If they are not able to do so properly, please do not have them ride public transportation/carpool.

Question: [Can my child still partake in after school programs?](#)

Answer: Yes. Your child may participate in after school/extracurricular school activities if they participate in the Test & Stay program. Email me at nicole.quadros@amesburyma.org if you are in need of a copy of your negative COVID result to provide to your program or you can also refer the program to me.

Question: I have another child in AES, are they eligible to volunteer in the Test & Stay program?

Answer: It is possible. We understand that you may have more than one child in various grades/classes. If one of your children is considered a close contact, please reach out to me via phone or email if you would like to request that a sibling be tested (even though they may not be considered a close contact). Each case, however, may be unique - but if we have the resources available to us, I will do my best to accommodate this request.

Question: If I consent, will you do pool testing?

Answer: Nope. No pool testing here. I will call you *every* time your child is considered a close contact and notify you via phone to obtain verbal permission ***every time***. No sneaky random swabbings here. Quite honestly, I'm busy enough as it is so I'll let you know up front! Just ask. I prefer not to swab little noses more than it is absolutely necessary.

Question: My child had their second COVID-19 vaccine, are they still considered a close contact?

Answer: If your child has had the second vaccine, they are considered fully vaccinated **14 days after** their second vaccination. From that point on, they would not be considered a close contact. **HOWEVER**, you still will be notified that your child has been exposed. Because of their vaccination status, your child would *not* be considered a close contact that would require quarantine and testing. You should still monitor your child at that time, 14 days from the time of their exposure, for any signs or symptoms of COVID-19. Read below for DESE/DPH definitions of close contacts and exemptions.

Below are snippets from the DESE/DPH Protocols for Responding to COVID-19. This is strictly for your information should you choose to review it.

You can view the protocol in its entirety here: [DESE/DPH Guidance on COVID-19 Prevention in Schools](#)

Definition of a close contact:

Per DESE/DPH, *Close contacts* are defined as individuals who have been within 6 feet of a COVID-19 positive individual while indoors (not masked), for at least 15 minutes during a 24-hour period. You are also considered a close contact indoors if the individual has been within 3 feet of a COVID-19 positive individual who was masked, for at least 15 minutes during a 24-hour period.

Please note that the at-risk exposure time begins 48 hours prior to symptom onset (or time of positive test if asymptomatic) and continues until the time the COVID-19 positive individual is isolated.

Exempt Close Contacts:

Per DESE/DPH, the following close contacts are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols:

- **Asymptomatic, fully vaccinated** close contacts: Individuals who are asymptomatic and fully vaccinated are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols.
- **Classroom close contacts**: An individual who is exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual in the classroom while both individuals were masked, so long as the individuals were spaced at least 3 feet apart, is exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols.
- **Bus close contacts**: Individuals on buses must be masked according to federal requirements. As such, individuals who are masked on buses when windows are open are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols.
- Close contacts who have **had COVID-19 within the past 90 days**: An individual who has been previously diagnosed with COVID-19 and then becomes a close contact of someone with COVID-19 is exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols if:
 - The exposure occurred within 90 days of the onset of their own illness AND the exposed individual is recovered and remains without COVID-19 symptoms.

COVID-19 Signs and Symptoms

Caregivers should monitor the student for any COVID-19 symptoms:

(Monitoring should be for 14 days after their initial exposure date.) **Monitor the child for any:**

- **Fever (100.0° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills**
- **Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath**
- **New loss of taste or smell**
- **Muscle aches or body aches**
- Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
- Sore throat, when in combination with other symptoms
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea when in combination with other symptoms
- Headache when in combination with other symptoms
- Fatigue, when in combination with other symptoms
- Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies) when in combination with other symptoms

Test & Stay Guideline (Protocol B-1)

This is DESE/DPH's guidelines to help children stay in school. Yes, children can be swabbed for over a week at times but that's the alternative to having to stay at home, quarantining. These are part DESE/DPH's current options recommendations at this time:

Protocol B-1 (Recommended): Test and Stay

- **Duration of Test and Stay:** 7 days from the date of exposure
- **Return to School:** Close contacts can remain in school and do not have to quarantine, as long as they:
 - o Are asymptomatic,
 - o Wear masks in school at all times, other than when eating or drinking. When these individuals cannot be masked (i.e., when eating or drinking) they should maintain 3 feet of distance from other individuals to the extent feasible.
 - o Take a rapid antigen test (e.g., BinaxNOW) on each school day and receive a negative result. When the 7 days from date of exposure includes weekends or holidays, individuals should quarantine on weekends, and if they remain asymptomatic, upon return to school be tested immediately. If the individual remains negative, they can stay in school.
 - o Conduct active monitoring for symptoms through day 14, and self-isolate at home if symptoms develop.
- **Note:** If an individual has symptoms at the time they are designated as a close contact or develops symptoms during the Test and Stay period or the 14 days following initial exposure, revert to [DESE/DPH Guidance on COVID-19 Prevention in Schools](#).

Contact Information for Nurses

With any specific questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact your child's school nurse.

School	Principal	Nurse
AES	Jim Montanari james.montanari@amesburyma.org	Nicole Quadros nicole.quadros@amesburyma.org
CES	Karina Mascia karina.mascia@amesburyma.org	Carol Greene carol.greene@amesburyma.org
AMS	Jarred Haas jarred.haas@amesburyma.org	Jody Omohundro jody.omohundro@amesburyma.org
AHS	Danielle Ricci danielle.ricci@amesburyma.org	Elisabeth Shorter elisabeth.shorter@amesburyma.org
AIHS	Eryn Maguire eryn.maguire@amesburyma.org	Kristin Tierney, Lead Nurse kristin.tierney@amesburyma.org

Thank you for your continued understanding during these unprecedented times and do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.