

## Interim Guidance COVID-19 School Protocols

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November 23, 2021

Dear Colleagues:

We are providing an interim update on pediatric COVID-19 school protocols based on new guidance released by Monroe County Department of Public Health and NY State Department of Health.

Many of our region's schools are now participating in **TEST TO STAY programs**. The program allows students who are quarantined because they are **unvaccinated, have had a close-contact COVID-19 exposure and are asymptomatic to remain in school if they participate in daily testing using the school's rapid antigen method**. Key points here include that the student remains in quarantine when outside of school; masking and mitigation measures remain in place; and any symptom development or positive testing ends the TEST TO STAY option. Please see the full guidance document which includes information about the protocol and quarantine, [here](#).

**Monroe County has also released an explanatory document that covers the different types of testing available for children as it relates to school participation**, specifically PCR or NAAT testing for symptomatic cases, rapid antigen for screening for unvaccinated asymptomatic students, and rapid antigen for the TEST TO STAY program. Note: rapid antigen testing and home testing that yield a positive test are considered positive, should be reported to the Health Department and school, and the individual should begin isolation. *A negative PCR test can be used to override a positive antigen test if performed within 48 hours of collection time of the antigen test.* A negative antigen or home test is not acceptable in a symptomatic patient; a PCR or NAAT test is required. Please see the full document, [here](#).

Finally, for children who experience symptoms post vaccination, the [January 2021 Monroe County COVID-19 Post-Vaccination Guidelines](#) remain in effect. For those caring for children in counties outside of Monroe, we are sharing here a similar newly released New York State resource document, [Guidance for Students who have Signs or Symptoms After COVID-19 Vaccination](#).

Thank you, as always, to you and your practice/healthcare teams for your incredible commitment and work on behalf of children and families.

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