

Test to Stay

School Board Meeting
October 25, 2021



Wallingford- Swarthmore School District

Mission and Vision Statements



MISSION

The Wallingford-Swarthmore School District is committed to assuring the academic achievement and personal growth of all students within an environment that promotes:

- Respect for self and others
- Active engagement in learning
- Leadership in the global community
- The pursuit of excellence

VISION

Our vision is to develop a world-class school district that provides students with the skills to succeed in a changing global environment. This vision will be realized through a commitment to high-quality programs and continuous improvement based upon careful analysis and integration of the most effective practices.

Health and Safety Plan



Delaware County Community Transmission

7 Day Metrics as of October 10, 2021

Level of Transmission: High

Cases: 826

Positivity: 4.15%

Deaths: <10%

Eligible Population Fully

Vaccinated: 75%

New Hospital Admissions: 52

7 Day Metrics as of Oct 24 , 2021

Level of Transmission: High

Cases:

Positivity: 4.15%

Deaths: <10%

Eligible Population Fully

Vaccinated: %

New Hospital Admissions:

WSSD
Student
Vaccination
Percentages



Oct. 11, 2021 Data:

12th Grade: 72%

11th Grade: 57%

10th Grade: 54%

9th Grade: 53%

8th Grade: 58%

7th Grade: 57%

Oct. 25, 2021 Data:

12th Grade: 72%

11th Grade: 58%

10th Grade: 55%

9th Grade: 54%

8th Grade: 59%

7th Grade: 58%

WSSD
FLU/COVID
VACCINATION

Springfield Pharmacy Partnership

Our Lead COVID Nurse, Mrs. Deb Sweeney, has arranged for Springfield Pharmacy to provide flu and other offered inoculations to staff on October 29th.



The Student Vaccination Interest Survey, was sent last week to gauge interest in a student vaccination clinic for students 5 years of age and up. Pending approval, the first clinic is tentatively scheduled for November 29, December 20 and January 12.



WSSD
Student & Staff
Percentages



SECONDARY NUMBERS

SHHS

CASES:

17 Students - 1.4%

3 Adults

CLOSE CONTACTS

265 Students- 21.5%

INSTRUCTION

EXCLUSION

52 Students - 4.2%

SHMS

CASES:

0 Students - 0%

1 Adult

CLOSE CONTACTS

9 Students- 1.0%

INSTRUCTION

EXCLUSION

12 Students - 1.4%

ELEMENTARY NUMBERS

NPE

CASES:

8 Students - 1.6%

1 Adult

CLOSE CONTACTS:

45 Students- 8.7%

INSTRUCTION

EXCLUSION:

26 Students - 5.0%

SRS

CASES:

4 Students - 0.7%

1 Adult

CLOSE CONTACTS:

64 Students- 11.2%

INSTRUCTION

EXCLUSION:

80 Students - 14.0%

WES

CASES:

10 Students - 1.8%

2 Adults

CLOSE CONTACTS:

105 Students- 18.6%

INSTRUCTION

EXCLUSION:

69 Students - 12.2%

WSSD Additional Mitigation Strategy



Mitigation Strategy

Test to stay is a comprehensive strategy to identify SARS-CoV-2 infection in schools. This strategy is aimed at maintaining in person instruction and extracurricular activities for the school community.

It is a voluntary program for students and staff named as in school closed contacts who would otherwise be placed in quarantine. Consent is required. Parents will need to complete a consent form on Power School for their child to participate.



Health and Safety Plan Test-to-Stay

Test-to-Stay

A COVID-19 Strategy to Help Maintain In-Person Learning

TEST-TO-STAY PROGRAM allows students and staff who are identified as **in-school close contacts** during COVID-19 contact tracing and are **asymptomatic** to continue to remain in school for work or learning. Staff or students will not be required to quarantine from school by taking routine COVID-19 rapid antigen tests [BinaxNOW] over the course of ten (10) days. Students and staff will test:



- Students and Staff remain at school as long as each test returns negative.
- If a positive test occurs, students or staff must isolate for 10 days.
- BinaxNow Rapid Antigen Test is administered by a trained proctor.
- Program participation is **OPTIONAL** for students, and parent/guardian permission needed.
- If feasible, provide an alternative location for meals for those participants.



Pros and Cons of testing

Pros

The CDC conducted a study of a similar testing program last year at Utah schools and concluded it was an effective way to allow more students to participate in in-person learning.

Test to stay is simple -- and evidence based

Frequent testing helps reduce the dangers from false negatives since it's unlikely that a student would have two false-negative tests back-to-back

Lessen the burden of quarantines on students, families and staff.

Test negative for COVID-19 before they attend school, participate in extracurricular activities or ride school buses following close contacts with anyone who has tested positive for the coronavirus.

Cons

Testing in the classroom doesn't necessarily decrease the prevalence of cases

Some exposed children who have coronavirus may have a false-negative test and thus could spread the infection at school.

With mitigation strategies in place, like masking and distancing this strategy can be a good option, but when other precautions are used

Increase nurse workload

Students/staff need to remain in the nurse's office until results are obtained



CDC Study Findings

CDC FINDINGS ON TEST TO STAY

Two COVID-19 testing strategies in Utah high schools* helped maintain in-person learning and extracurricular activities

Of approximately 60,000 students tested, nearly 1,900 tested positive

COVID-19 TESTING STRATEGIES



Test to Stay

Optional testing when schools had outbreaks



Test to Play

Required testing every 14 days to participate in extracurricular activities

Opted out of Test to Stay

Remote learning for 10 days

Tested negative

Continued in-person school and activities

Tested positive

Isolated for 10 days

>100,000

days[†] of in-person instruction saved

95%

of athletic events happened

* November 30, 2020–March 30, 2021
[†] estimated student-days

CDC.GOV

bit.ly/MMWR52121b

MMWR



WSSD Plan for Testing



How Test to Stay Will Work

Student/Staff is named a “Close Contact”

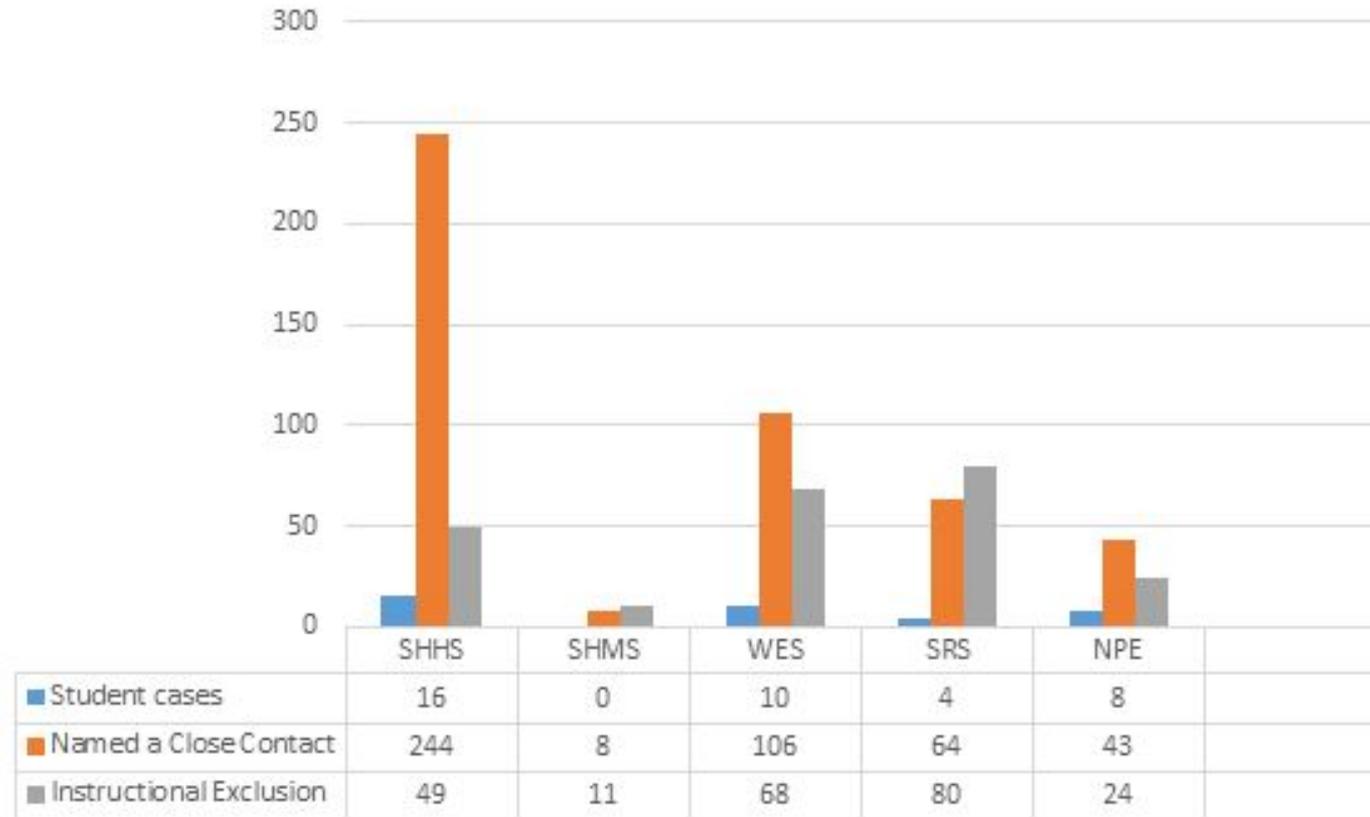
- Asymptomatic Student(s)/Staff will present to a central location in the district for “drive-by” testing in the morning prior to work or school.
- Location decided as in front of the gym at the high school
- HS students from 6:45-7:10a, MS students 7:10a-7:35a, and elementary students from 7:35a-8:15a
- Asymptomatic Student(s)/Staff will bring the required QR code (link will be provided in close contact notification email)
- Individuals will self administer the test or a nurse will be there to assist the parent to perform the Binax-Now rapid antigen test
- The test will be provided Monday, Wednesday and Friday(s)
- The individual must complete the week’s testing program to remain in school
- If a student is uncooperative or refuses testing, the parent will be asked to have the student in traditional quarantine
- If a parent wishes to participate in the program but has concerns, they will be addressed separately by the Lead COVID Nurse, Deb Sweeney.

WSSD

Rationale behind
the decision



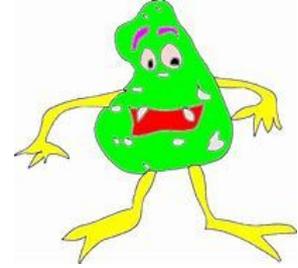
Why is Test to Stay Important



WSSD Flu Season Reminders



Flu Season and COVID-19



The influenza “flu” season will make its annual return in the coming weeks as the COVID-19 pandemic continues. Flu cases tend to increase in October and can occur as late as May.

Last season, flu activity remained low, but Medical experts are concerned that the 2021–22 flu season will likely be worse than last year, since mild flu seasons are often followed by more severe flu seasons. This, mixed with COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses that circulate in the fall and winter months, may lead to a surge in cases

Experts recommend prevention methods to protect yourself and your family from these respiratory illnesses, such as getting a flu vaccine and COVID-19 vaccine, as well as hand washing, wearing a face mask, and maintaining proper physical distancing.



WSSD
Rationale behind
the decision

Halloween

If your family recognizes and celebrates Halloween, we want you to enjoy this festive and fun holiday as safely as possible. Please consider the following recommendations when celebrating Halloween this year. Talk with children about different ways to celebrate Halloween, and about staying safe while participating in your household's chosen activities. Continue to follow COVID-19 precautions at all time

Please refer to [Chesco Department of Health](#) that offers ideas to participate in trick or treating, delivery of candy/treats and alternatives to Trick or treating during a pandemic



WSSD
Q&A

