

**From:** [Maureen Donahue](#)  
**To:** [SaGurney, Pamela](#)  
**Subject:** District Updates  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 25, 2022 2:07:37 PM

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Dear Southwestern Families:

As we move into a new phase of the pandemic there will be changes to how we handle positive cases and close contacts. We will be notifying our families if you are a close contact, isolating positive cases, and asking that all symptomatic students stay home. We will be providing the option for Test to Stay for our staff and students to keep kids in school if they are a positive contact. In addition, we will offer additional "test to play" to allow kids to continue with extra curricular activities including sports if you are a close contact to a positive case.

*The Chautauqua County Health Department explicitly authorizes schools to exclude an asymptomatic student from the classroom, extracurricular activities and transportation services, when determined as a close contact of a positive case.*

*This health department recommends that schools:*

- *Ensure consistent and proper masking during all appropriate school activities, including transportation*
- *Exclude positive cases from school and extracurricular activities as outlined in the I/Q guidance*
- *Notify staff and parents/guardians of students who have come into close contact with a confirmed*

*positive COVID-19 case. Students/staff who are close contacts should be excluded from school and school activities unless fully vaccinated until day 5 after exposure, but may participate in the Test to Stay*

*Program if they are eligible (guidance issued by our department on January 7, 2022)*

- *Students participating in Test to Stay may choose to also "test to play" for sports and extracurricular activities if they test on every day that they are participating in the extracurricular activity*
- *Staff are eligible for "test to stay" if they are designated as a close contact in a school setting*

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- *Ensure access to and awareness of COVID-19 testing opportunities for symptomatic students and close contacts or "affected students" (testing in the nursing office, provide at-home test kits to families, and/or direct families to school/community testing sites)*
- *Continue to honor Chautauqua County public health orders for isolation and quarantine submitted to school by staff/students*

We continue to receive a supply of Covid-19 Antigen Rapid Test kits every two weeks. Please see the school nurse or email the district office at my email if you need a test kit. Thank you for your continued patience and support.

Mrs. Donahue

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