



January 3, 2022

Dear TVHS Community,

New York State has made thousands of at-home COVID-19 test kits available to schools statewide to monitor the spread of COVID-19 within our community as part of the ongoing effort to keep our school buildings open for in-person instruction. These tests are a resource to schools and families. We have received antigen tests for distribution to families for use at home. Please see the company website for information about the specific tests we have

(<https://accessbio.net/products/covid-19-detection-kits/carestart-covid-19-antigen-home-test>). Any additional tests will be kept in our school health office to be utilized, with parent/guardian permission, for symptomatic students or surveillance testing in order to keep students and staff in school safely.

We have created a [Google Form](#) for your use to let us know if (a) you would like to receive a test for at-home use and/or (b) you give permission for TVHS to test your child at school using the antigen tests.

Please note that any positive test results from an at-home test must be reported to the local health department and to our school nurse. Anyone with a positive test result should isolate and contact the local Department of Health.

I would like to make you aware of two important changes in our COVID-19 response based on our local Department of Health.

- We are now able to accept antigen tests as proof of COVID-19 testing results.
- If we are faced with a need to quarantine individuals based on close contact at school, we are able to implement the Test to Stay protocol as adopted by the New York State Department of Health. This protocol will allow unvaccinated, asymptomatic individuals to remain in school after a close contact with a positive case if they continue to test negative 3 times within 7 days prior to attending school that day. If your child is identified as a close contact, we will work collaboratively with you through the process to determine appropriate next steps.

Thank you for your continued partnership as we work to keep our students in school. If you have any questions or concerns about COVID-19 testing or other health and safety protocols, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

Amy Hawrylchak