



WALLENPAUPACK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Keith E. Gunuskey
Superintendent

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January 14, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Since the beginning of the pandemic the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) have established isolation guidelines (for those who test positive for Covid) and quarantine guidelines (for those who are a close contact of those who test positive). Over the course of the pandemic the isolation and quarantine timelines have been reduced. However, we still have many students who are identified as close contacts and must quarantine, while missing school and their extracurricular activities.

Wallenpaupack Area School District has been actively seeking a solution to the problem of quarantining healthy students. To solve this issue, Wallenpaupack has enrolled in the Test to Stay Program. This program will allow asymptomatic (healthy) students, who are identified as close contacts to stay in school, **thus avoiding quarantine**. This is a completely optional program that requires two Covid tests which are administered in school and free of charge. One test would be given between days 2-4 after exposure and one test administered between days 5-7. The nasal swabs used for the tests are unlike early Covid tests that were uncomfortable. Our tests are non-intrusive and will be administered by school staff.

The Test to Stay Program may only be used on students who are asymptomatic. If students are ill, they should stay home from school and seek medical attention. In addition, students who test positive for Covid must continue to isolate for 5 days before returning to school.

It is our hope that Test to Stay will provide our students and staff with a level of confidence that we are doing our best to ensure our schools remain safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Keith E. Gunuskey".

Keith E. Gunuskey, Superintendent