



February 6, 2022

Re: PHASE 1: STAFF & STUDENTS - *Test to Stay* (WTHS Pod), Beginning Monday, February 7, 2022

Dear Washington Township Staff and Families,

The following is a rather lengthy letter, but I urge you to read it in its entirety. There is a lot of critical information about an exciting new program aimed to keep more of our students and staff in our school buildings. We did our best to anticipate your questions and outline them below.

I am excited to share with our community that starting Monday, February 7th, we will begin PHASE 1 of our partnership with Grapefruit Health. This partnership will provide much-needed support to WTPS staff, alleviating the additional responsibilities created by the COVID-19 pandemic so that they may return to providing direct services to our students. In addition, it will help us achieve our goal of keeping our staff and students in school through the *Test to Stay* program. *Test to Stay* will allow staff or students who are designated as close contacts to COVID-positive individuals to test periodically, and they will not have to quarantine if their tests continue to be negative.

Grapefruit Health has set up three testing sites (pods) in the District. We will begin PHASE 1 with a “soft-open” of our pod at Washington Township High School to start our *Test to Stay* program for all WTPS staff and students. Once we are confident in the process, we will expand *Test to Stay* to our other two pods located at Bells Elementary School and Orchard Valley Middle School. Concurrently, we also will be transitioning the responsibility of contact tracing to Grapefruit Health. Finally, once all pods are operational and the *Test to Stay* program is functioning efficiently, we will open the pods to the community for testing during specific timeframes; however, staff and students will have timeframes dedicated to *Test to Stay* and will always have priority during times open to the community.

Please see below for our anticipated phases of implementation:

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Phase of Implementation	Location	Service	Participants	Anticipated Start (subject to change based on progress and needs)
Phase 1	WTHS Pod	<i>Test to Stay</i>	ALL WTPS Students & Staff *consent required	Monday, February 7 th
Phase 2	WTHS Pod Bells Pod OVMS Pod	<i>Test to Stay</i>	ALL WTPS Students & Staff *consent required	Week of February 7 th
Phase 3		Contact Tracing	ALL WTPS Students & Staff *consent required	Week of February 14 th
Phase 4	All 3 pods	COVID-19 Testing	ALL WTPS Students & Staff Community	Week of February 21 st

**All testing pods are located behind the school buildings. There will be ample signage to lead you to the pod.*

PHASE 1: STAFF & STUDENTS - *Test to Stay*

PHASE 1 will begin on Monday, February 7, 2022 and is open to all WTPS Staff and Students for the *Test to Stay* program.

What is needed to participate in Test to Stay?

- In order to participate in the *Test to Stay* program, staff and **parents of students** will need to complete and submit the following consent forms:
 - [Consent Form](#) (English)
 - [Consent Form](#) (Spanish)
- These forms also will be made available both electronically and in paper form at each site in the event the forms were not completed in advance.

Students will not be tested without parental consent.

How are individuals identified for Test to Stay?

- During school hours, when an individual is determined to have been a close contact of a COVID-positive individual, they will be issued a physical **testing ticket** by the school nurse to go to any available pod to be tested.
- If that individual is a **student**, they must be picked up from school per District protocol. The parent or guardian may go immediately to the testing pod for their child to be tested. If that is not convenient for the parent, they may bring their child to the testing pod the next morning prior to school; however, the student must be accompanied by their parent or guardian and have parental consent to be tested.

- After school hours, if staff or students determine that they may have been a close contact, they should contact the school nurse via email to determine the appropriate next steps.
- **Please note:** *Test to Stay* is only for individuals deemed as close contacts, and not individuals who test positive for COVID. A five-day quarantine still will be required of all COVID-positive individuals.

What happens at the pod?

- Grapefruit Health will receive the individual to be tested and confirm or obtain consent (again, students must be accompanied by their parent or guardian).
- Once the individual has been checked in, the individual (and their parent, if a student) will participate in a telehealth appointment with a Grapefruit physician or nurse practitioner to confirm the appropriate subsequent steps.
- If deemed appropriate, Grapefruit will administer a rapid COVID-19 antigen test (nasal swab). The individual may wait for the results at the site, or they will be contacted by Grapefruit with those results. *Please note: The Grapefruit medical team also may recommend a PCR test that will be sent to a lab. This could be administered at the pod, as well, and results take approximately 72 hours.*
- Upon completion of the rapid test, a Grapefruit physician (or nurse practitioner) will decide if the individual may return to the school building, utilizing the data collected in the telehealth visit combined with test results.
- If that individual tests negative and is deemed safe to return to school by the Grapefruit medical team, they must present the validated ticket of a negative result to their school nurse upon arrival at the school building. They then will continue to test every other morning up to three times – days 1, 3 and 5 – and if negative and deemed appropriate by the Grapefruit medical team, they will remain in school. After a negative test on day 5, the process is concluded, and no further testing is required.

What time is the WTHS pod open for students and staff?

- The WTHS testing pod officially opens on Monday, February 7th, for the *Test to Stay* program only for any staff and students who have provided or will provide consent (parents must provide consent for students). The WTHS pod is open for staff and students at the following days and times:

WTHS Testing Pod	Monday through Friday	7:00am to 7:00pm
	Saturday & Sunday	7:00am to 12:00pm

*This is for students and staff only, at this time.

How much does testing cost? **FREE!**

- There is no cost for testing or the *Test to Stay* program. Participants will be asked for their insurance information; however, there is no cost/copy for the individual. Please contact Grapefruit Health with any questions (contact information below).

What if an individual chooses not to participate in the Test to Stay program?

- No problem! This is absolutely the choice of the staff member or parent. If an individual chooses not to participate in *Test to Stay*, they will continue to follow the current New Jersey Department of Health Guidelines for isolating and/or quarantining. Eligible students would receive remote instruction.

Questions?

- Please contact Grapefruit Health at their 24-hour call center:

(213) 900-6878

- Further information can also be found at [Grapefruit Health's](#) website.

We will continue to communicate details regarding the next Phases as they become available.

Thank you again for your ongoing trust and patience through this nearly two-year epidemic. Clearly, better days are on their way, and this is truly a step in a very positive direction that will help keep our schools open and our student and staff in attendance. Have a great weekend.

Sincerely,



Joseph N. Bollendorf
Superintendent of Schools

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