



## Cole Academy

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## Cole Academy East

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*Cole Academy students will be equipped to excel as leaders and lifelong learners.*

December 29, 2021

Dear Cole District Families,

**The purpose of this communication is to share that Cole Academy is moving away from whole class quarantines and switching to a Test-to-Stay program after December 17th.** This new program was developed in conjunction with our Health Resource Advocate, who is a licensed medical professional. Our goal for this program is to allow more students to safely remain in-person as long as they continue to not show symptoms of COVID-19. Below is a summary of information that explains how the need for testing, isolation and quarantining will be identified.

### **COVID-19 Notifications**

- If your student was identified as a close contact, you will receive a phone call from the building principal to discuss which test-to-stay option your student qualifies for. (Please see [Test-to-Stay Options: Student Chart](#))
- Each building principal will send an email notification to all families within the school of a confirmed or probable case that has been on campus. We will also continue to provide cumulative counts on our school dashboard at [www.coleacademy.org](http://www.coleacademy.org).

### **General Quarantine & Isolation Definitions**

- You ISOLATE when you are already infected with COVID-19 and have tested positive, even if you do not have symptoms. Isolation is used to separate people who are infected from those who are not infected. Isolation for 5 days and wearing a mask will minimize the risk of spreading to others.

- You **QUARANTINE** when you might have been exposed to COVID-19. This is because you might become infected and could spread COVID-19 to others. Quarantine for 5 days and wearing a mask will minimize the risk of spreading to others.

### **Testing Information**

- Cole Academy will be using BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card for our test-to-stay program. These tests are a lateral flow immunoassay for the qualitative detection of the nucleocapsid protein antigen to SARS-CoV-2 directly from nasal swab specimens.
- There is **NO** cost to families to test.
- All collected samples are generated at the school and discarded by our health resource advocate.
- Students electing to test are tested by a trained school staff member and the swabs **DO NOT** enter into the nasal cavity. This non-invasive sample is taken using 6 rotations in each nostril.
- A test fact sheet is available for parents any time testing occurs.
- Should your student qualify based on their status, testing will be available every morning at each school from 7:30 am-8:15 am.
- Please enter the building at the specified times and proceed to the testing area. Parents will fill out a testing waiver, be asked a series of short screening questions, students will receive a temperature check and then the test will be conducted.
- Parents awaiting results from tests, should remain in their car for a phone call regarding results of the morning test.
- A negative result allows the student to attend school.
- A positive result moves the student into isolation. Students who test positive (Day 1) for COVID-19 must isolate for 5 days before returning to school on Day 6. Parents should notify their local health department and the school if their child becomes COVID-19 positive.

### **Test-To-Stay Choice**

- Parents may choose whether their student participates in the program, if exposure occurs at school.

- Parents only have the choice when their close-contact student is asymptomatic. Any COVID-19 symptoms moves a student to a 5-Day quarantine, even without a positive test.
- Not participating means that a student, who is identified as a close contact, will automatically quarantine for 5 days, and return on Day 6.
- Families must show proof of vaccination status to the building principal.
- If you choose to have your student participate in testing, parents will have to sign a [testing waiver](#) EACH time their student is tested.

### **Change in School Instruction Focus**

- It is important to note that students who remain home will not be receiving any direct instruction.
- At-home work will consist of review assignments only.
- There will be no synchronous or asynchronous instruction or morning meetings while a student is isolated, or quarantined beginning January 3, 2022.
- Each classroom teacher will be accessible to families during set office hours.

### **COVID-19 Symptoms**

Remember to keep your student home if they are experiencing one or more of the following symptoms;

- Temperature 100.4 degrees or signs of fever(chills/sweating)
- Sore Throat
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
- New onset of severe headache
- Loss of taste or loss of smell

As always, thank you for being patient and understanding as Cole Academy adjusts our program in an effort to follow CDC guidelines for a focus on in-person instruction for our students. We want to say thank you to our families for your support of both our staff and our students. We are honored and blessed to be a part of your student's education. Should you have any questions, please reach out

to your building principal. Have a great holiday break and see you on Monday  
January 3, 2022!

Educationally Yours,

Mrs. Stacey Johnson  
District Lead