



**COUNTY OF DUTCHESS**  
DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL AND COMMUNITY HEALTH

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** County Public School Superintendents & Private Schools  
**From:** Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health  
**Date:** October 28, 2021  
**RE:** NYS Test to Stay and Test out of Quarantine Guidance

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On October 27<sup>th</sup>, New York State Department of Health issued Updated Testing and Quarantine Supplemental Information which allows Local Health Departments, at their discretion, to adopt the following practices:

1. "Test to Stay"
2. COVID-19 Testing to Permit Return to School After Symptoms
3. "Test out of Quarantine"
4. Exemption to weekly unvaccinated staff/teacher testing for recently recovered persons.

These protocols can help to support in-person education opportunities in a safe manner by shortening or eliminating quarantine requirements for students. Dutchess County will allow implementation of all of the practices referenced county-wide. These guidelines will require schools/districts to develop relevant policies and procedures to facilitate effective implementation in the coming days and weeks.

While these protocols will apply universally, it is unclear at this time if districts/schools may choose not to adopt some aspects of these policies at their discretion. DBCH remains committed to assisting schools/districts in their planning efforts and supporting the funding of these testing programs with ELC School Reopening Funding. We look forward to our continued partnership to keep Dutchess County schools safe and open for in-person instruction.