



**Hillsboro Community
Unit School District #3**

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David E. Powell, Superintendent

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September 19, 2021

RE: Clarification on Test to Stay Protocols and Quarantines

Members of the HCUSD3 Community,

In my previous letter about the removal of the mask mandate for students I mentioned that one ramification would be the loss of our ability in many cases to offer the Test to Stay alternative to quarantines. I apologize if those remarks added to the confusion over this somewhat complicated issue.

There will be no change to our Test to Stay protocols. Per the IDPH and Montgomery County Health Department, the Test to Stay alternative to quarantines has always been contingent upon BOTH the infected individual and the close contact properly wearing masks during the time of the possible exposure. This has not changed. The mention I gave this in my previous letter was intended to inform parents that when many students stop wearing masks, the Test to Stay option will be offered in far fewer instances. If a COVID-positive student comes to school without a mask, any student who is identified as a close contact will be quarantined by the Health Department without being offered the Test to Stay option, whether the close contact was masked or not.

I would also like to clarify that only the Health Department can quarantine students and the District will not exclude any close contacts involuntarily without such an order being in place. The District will assist the Health Department in contact tracing and may call parents to ask if they will *voluntarily* remove their child from school, but that is the end of our role. The Health Department can issue immediate 48-hour quarantine orders to close contacts who do not submit to a request to quarantine and can seek a court order to extend the 48-hour quarantine to a full 14-day quarantine. The District will exclude any student under a quarantine order for the duration of the order. The District will also exclude positive and symptomatic students.

Thank you for your patience as we work through these difficult and ever changing challenges.

The Hillsboro Community School District fosters a student-centered culture with high expectations for each student to reach his or her full potential.