Test to Stay (TTS) Policy
As of 5/11/22

The Test to Stay (TTS) program is a way to allow unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated students to remain in school after being exposed to someone with COVID-19, rather than quarantine at home. It is a strategy that allows asymptomatic, eligible close contacts who are subject to quarantine according to the Updated NYSDOH Isolation and Quarantine Guidance for School (K-12) Settings to attend school and applicable school-based extracurricular activities by testing negative through serial testing using rapid NAAT or antigen tests (including at-home) during a five-day period following exposure. The school has antigen tests available for students to take home and use for the TTS program. If a student is identified as a close contact, the school nurse will ensure that a box of at-home antigen tests is given to the student to complete at home.

The school requires the following as part of the TTS program:

- The exposed student must remain asymptomatic; if the exposed student who is allowed to remain in school develops symptoms, they must be immediately excluded from school per current isolation and quarantine guidance.

- The exposed student must consistently and properly wear a mask while participating in TTS and during the entire quarantine period as outlined in Gateway’s Isolation and Quarantine tables posted on the school’s website.

- The exposed student is tested a minimum of two times during the five-day period following exposure, unless recognition of the exposure is delayed, or weekends or school breaks intervene. See possible minimum testing regimens below.

- The five-day period is measured in calendar days where the last date of exposure is considered Day 0. The first test should be done as soon as possible. Students test on the first school day after the exposure is identified. The last test should be done on Day 5 OR the first morning coming to school after Day 5. The exact testing schedule will be outlined in the letter the school sends home to impacted families.

- The school will contact trace in the event a TTS student tests positive.

- The test must be conducted—and the results received via studentcovidresults@gatewayschool.org —before the student comes to school on the test day, and positive students must be excluded/isolated per existing procedures.
The exposed student who is allowed to remain in school through TTS may participate in school-based extracurriculars at Gateway if these activities do not involve students from other schools (e.g., not competitive sports events with other schools) and appropriate COVID mitigation measures are in place and are monitored by a teacher or administrator.

Please note that students participating in TTS are allowed to continue to ride the school bus and attend school-administered programs in which all appropriate mitigation strategies are followed (e.g., masking, distance, ventilation, hand hygiene).