

DATE:

Dear:

We have made the decision to implement the Rhode Island Test to Stay program for staff and children ages two and older which will allow us to utilize at-home tests in the event of a COVID-19 exposure. With Test to Stay, eligible children and staff will be able to attend care during their quarantine period if they are asymptomatic and test negative on an at-home test each morning for five days following the last date of exposure. Tests that are available for use are not approved for children under the age of two. This is an important program for maximizing the number of days that children and staff can be at child care while ensuring the continued safety of our children, families, and staff members.

Why are we choosing to offer Test to Stay?

This program is intended to keep our staff and children safe and keep them in child care with less disruption from quarantine when an exposure occurs. Routine testing will allow us to support in-person care and reduce the impacts of continued quarantine on children, their families, and providers. We also want to provide this additional measure since our 2–5-year-olds are still not eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine.

Who is eligible to participate in Test to Stay?

Staff and children ages 2 and older are eligible to participate in Test to Stay. If they are exposed to COVID-19 and need to quarantine, they can instead attend child care with Test to Stay if they are a close contact of someone other than a household contact and do not have symptoms of COVID-19. Individuals that are up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines or that tested positive within 90 days are exempt from quarantine and do not need to participate in TTS.

What is the expectation of Test to Stay?

If you choose to participate in our Test to Stay program, you must consent to the conditions of the program. If your child is identified as a close contact to a positive individual while in the community or the child care program you will be notified, and your child will be provided with enough at-home tests to test for 5 days from last date of exposure. Parents/guardians will be responsible for swabbing their child at home each morning prior to attending child care and must report the result according to our reporting system.

If your child is negative, they may attend child care and are recommended to wear a mask during the testing days (except when eating, napping, or outdoors). If your child tests positive, they must isolate at home and follow Rhode Island Department of Health [guidance for isolation](#) and return to care.

If you choose not to participate, and your child is identified as a close contact, you will not receive any take-home tests and your child should follow Rhode Island Department of Health [recommendations for quarantine](#).

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in our efforts to keep our child care open and available to families.

Sincerely,
