

TESTS FOR TOTS
AN EVIDENCE-BASED STRATEGY
DEVELOPED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE EXPERTS AT THE
VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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PROGRAM GOALS

- Tests for Tots was designed to provide testing opportunities for children 2–5 years old who are currently not eligible for vaccination so that they may remain in their child care setting.
- It also allows not fully protected staff, who are close contacts and test negative, to continue working so programs can remain open.

PROGRAM DESIGN

Child Care Programs

- Certify they will adhere to the program design.
- Eligible close contacts (children/staff) go home with test kits for 5 days of testing.
- If test is negative, they may attend the program.
- Staff and children who are actively testing mask indoors except when eating and napping.
- Children/staff who are sick stay home.
- Order more test kits when inventory runs low (more information coming soon)

Parents

- Tests child, if negative, child may attend child care.
- Certify their child will quarantine when not in child care.
- Certify they will test prior to attending the program and communicate results to the provider.
- Certify they will only use test kits for the enrolled child.
- Keep sick children home.

WHO'S PARTICIPATING ?

- 638 programs signed up
- 11,620 children
- 3,779 staff
- 15,399 test kits (10 per kit)

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

- Program is voluntary for providers and parents.
- Testing options for children 6 weeks to 2 years old are not currently available.
- Staff and children who are fully protected do not utilize test kits. Staff (adults: primary series and booster. Five-year-olds: primary series was completed at least 2 weeks prior).
- A child's inability to mask consistently does not preclude participation.

MORE INFORMATION

Program design and related documents can be found at:

[Regulated Child Care COVID-19 Tests For Tots Program | Department for Children and Families \(vermont.gov\)](#)

Let's Grow Kids Q&A with Vermont Department of Health nurses on current information about 'Tests for Tots' and the Omicron strain in VT's childcare system can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pzYOBM273J8&t=6s>