

# COVID-19 Quarantine and Mitigation Strategies

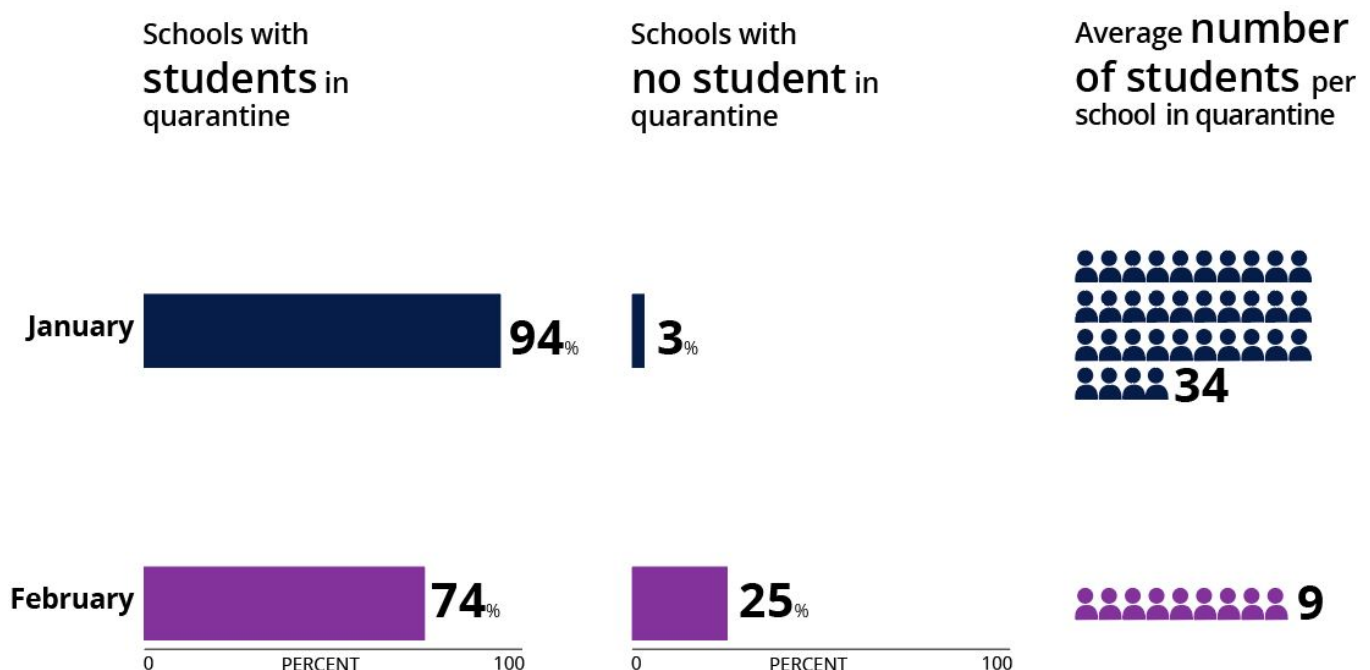
Results from the February School Pulse Panel

## STUDENT AND TEACHER QUARANTINE

Average number of students in quarantine dropped significantly in February

- With the waning of cases from the Omicron variant of COVID-19, schools reported on average that 9 students were currently in quarantine during February compared to an average of 34 in January.
- Only 3 percent of schools reported that no students had to be quarantined in January, and 25 percent of schools reported no students in quarantine in February.

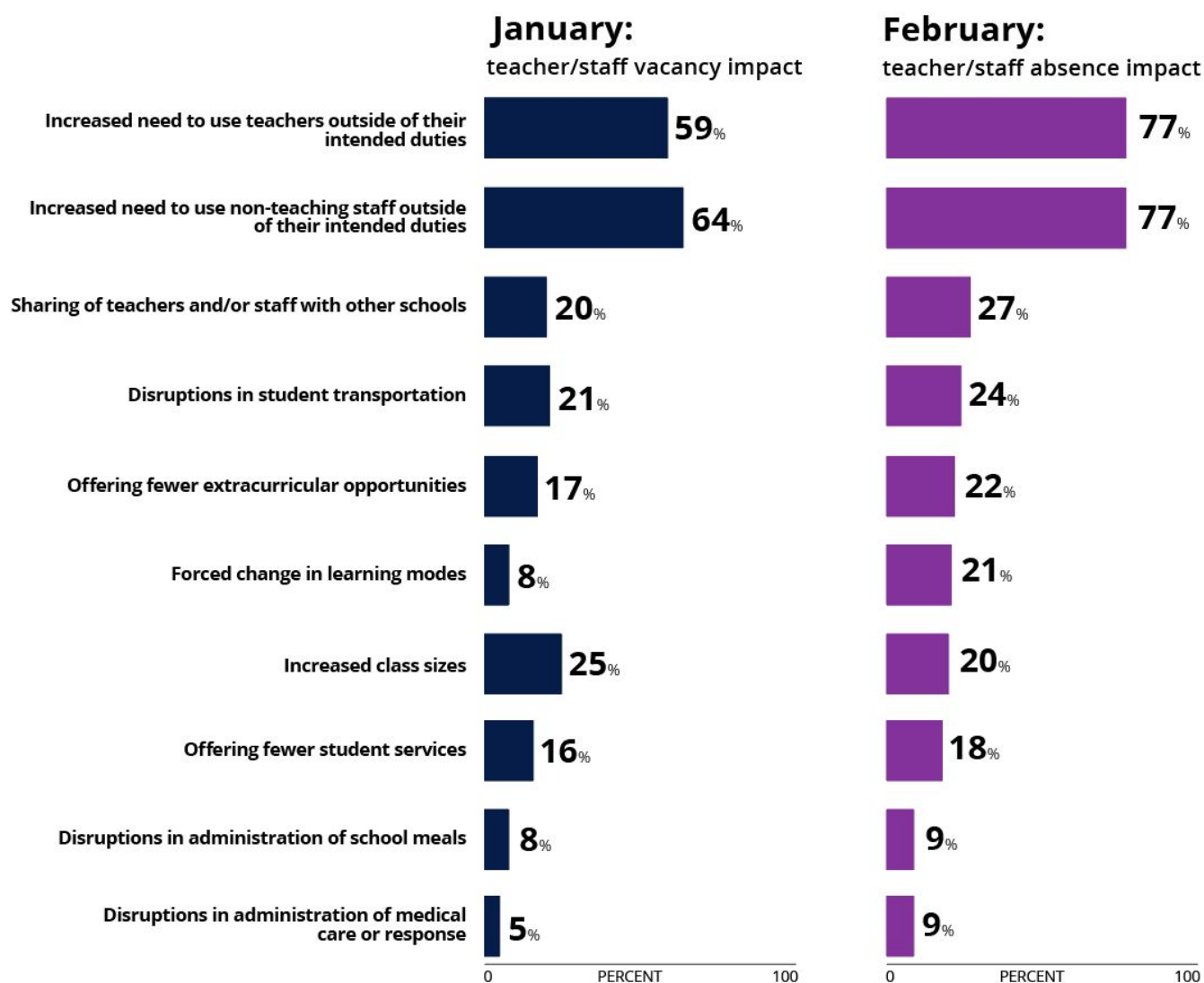
Average number of students in quarantine and percentage of public schools by reports of students in quarantine: January and February 2022



### Schools continued to report using teachers outside of intended duties to deal with staff absences

In January, schools reported on the impact of staff vacancies and in February they reported on the impact of staff absences. As reported in January for staffing shortages, schools continued to report using teachers and staff outside of their intended duties in February due to teachers' absences.

Percentage of public schools by outcome from teaching and staff vacancies (January 2022) and absences (February 2022)



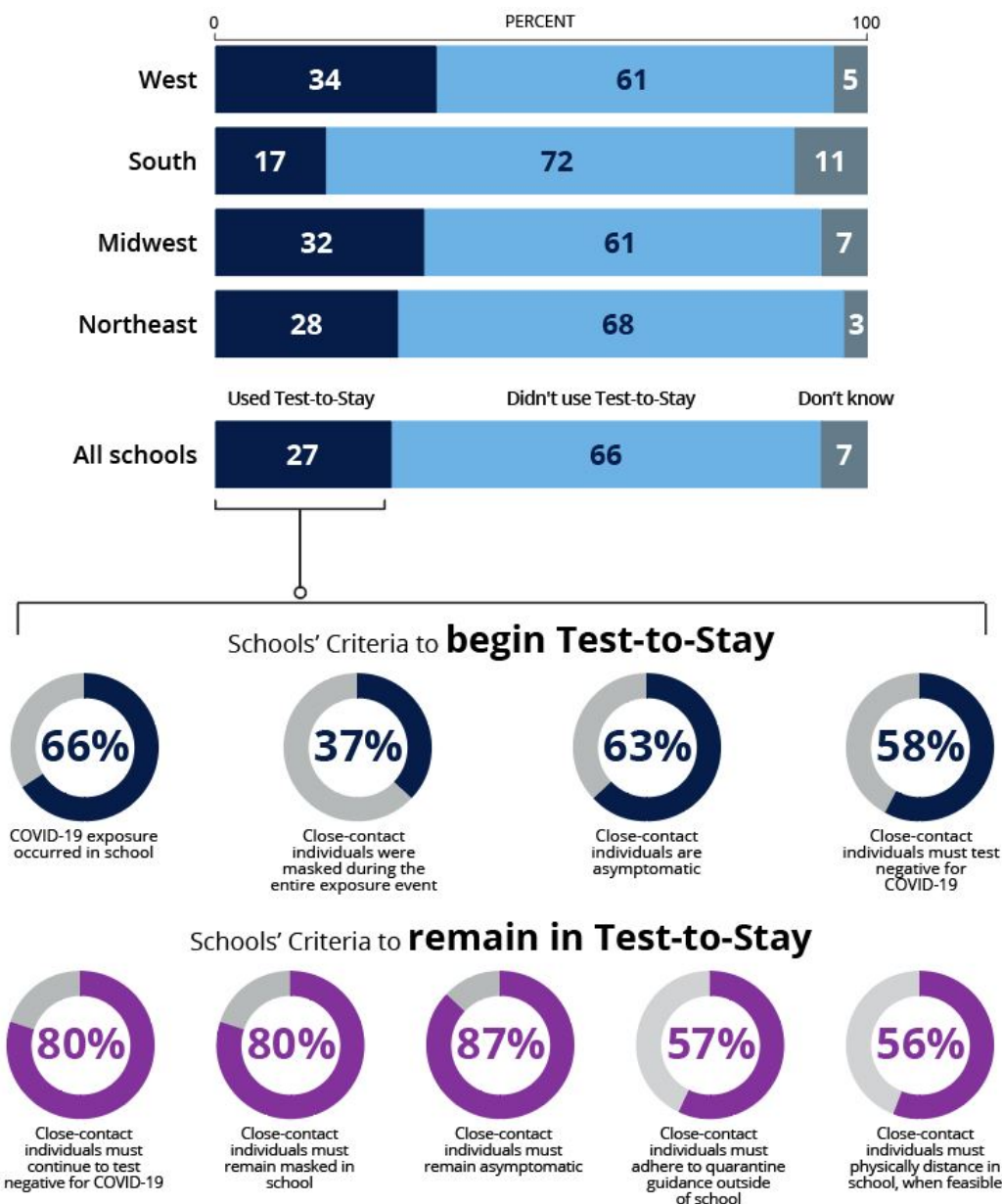
NOTE: Forty-four percent of public schools reported at least one staff vacancy in January. Thirty-two percent of public schools reported in February that any teachers or staff members were quarantined at home related to COVID-19.

## Twenty-seven percent of schools reported using Test-to-Stay to help keep unvaccinated students in school after COVID exposures

The Test-to-Stay (TTS) program is a testing program that allows unvaccinated or partially vaccinated people who are a close contact to a case of COVID-19 to attend school if they do not have symptoms and consistently test negative for COVID-19. See [What to Know About COVID-19 Testing in Schools](#) for more information.

- Fewer schools in the South than the Northeast, Midwest and West reported using a Test-to-Stay program.
- Fewer schools initiated Test-to-Stay protocols if close contacts were masked.
- More schools required close contacts to continue to test negative and to remain masked and asymptomatic rather than requiring them to social distance in school or quarantine outside of school.

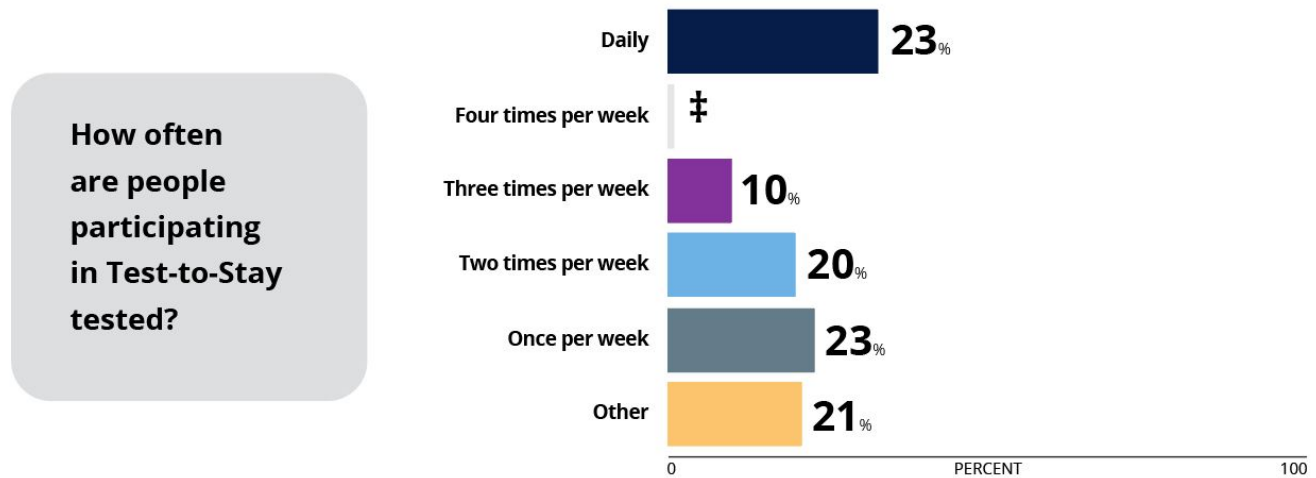
Percentage of public schools by use of Test-to-Stay program: February 2022



## Of the 27 percent of schools using Test-to-Stay, almost half required testing once or twice a week

- While 23 percent of schools required daily testing, over forty percent of schools using Test-to-Stay required testing once or twice a week.

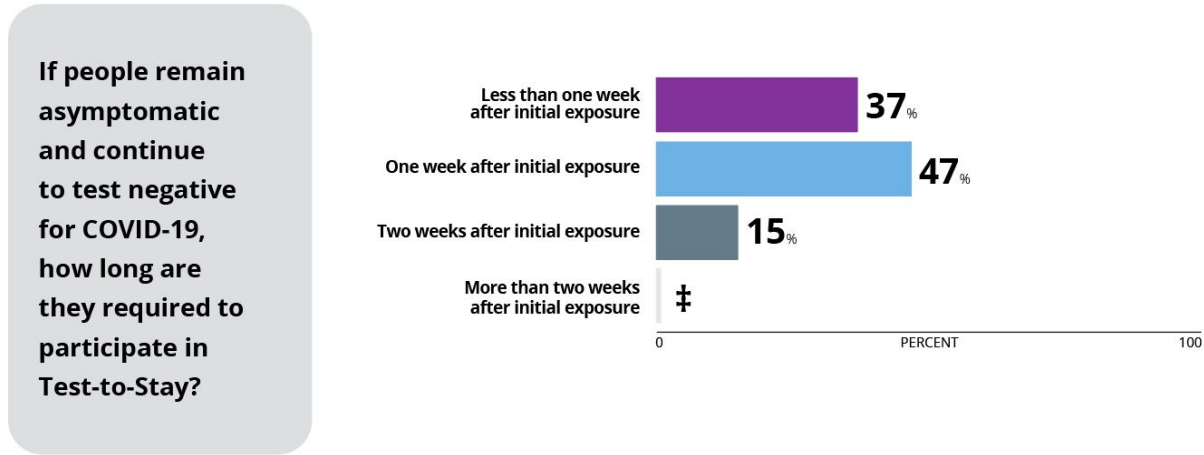
Among schools using Test-to-Stay, percentage of public schools by the frequency of required test for COVID-19: February 2022



## Almost two-thirds of the schools using Test-to-Stay required participation for a week or more

- If an individual remained asymptomatic and continued to test negative for COVID-19, approximately one-third of schools required participation for less than a week.
- Almost half of schools required participation for one week after the initial exposure.

Among schools using Test-to-Stay, percentage of public schools by the duration of participation in the Test-to-Stay Program: February 2022



NOTE: For a complete view of the results, visit the [School Pulse Panel](#) dashboard.

Estimates in this file have been revised as of July 2023, based on a reweighting of the data.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, School Pulse Panel (January and February 2022).