

## **Thacher Montessori Covid-19 Q & A's:**

### **If staff or a student is identified by the school nurse to be a close contact what happens?**

In this scenario, the individual is notified to stay home until test results are received or if they are in school, they are asked to leave immediately. At that point, Nurse Carolyn starts conducting a potential case investigation which includes the level of Covid-19 transmission based on learned information. This is a critical area of “behind the scenes work” that may detect the likelihood of transmission while a close contact waits the 5 days to get tested and potentially longer to receive results.

### **Why would the school close due to one or two cases if we have cohorts and those cohorts are not exposed?**

In events like this, please keep in mind that at all times, Nurse Carolyn is compiling information based on close contacts in other cohorts, potential carpool exposure, playdates that may affect someone from another cohort, and staffing that is potentially been identified as a close contact. Simply put, this is all protected information to honor the privacy of individuals. If the school or multiple cohorts close please be mindful that there may be other information that went into this decision, usually found out in a short amount of time. Risk and exposure are continually being evaluated and protecting our community will always be at the forefront of Thacher's decisions.

### **The state has a lower number of days one has to quarantine if they are a known Covid + case or close contact. Why is Thacher still 14 days?**

The reason the timeframe was shortened was based on behavioral data as a means to increase compliance. It was determined that more people will comply with a 10-day quarantine (potentially shorter for close contacts with a negative test) than if they were asked to stick to the 14-day quarantine. Given the risk of transmission is possible after day 10 it drops substantially, therefore the quarantine was amended to increase behavioral compliance. At Thacher, we recognize the reason for this on a broad scale basis but also recognize there is said to be no risk only after 14 days.

### **Will Thacher staff be vaccinated?**

Early Education and K-12 workers are able to get vaccinated in Phase 2 which begins in February. Nurse Carolyn will help staff identify places in which they will be able to get vaccinated which may include a clinic in their home town, a state pop-up site such as Gillette Stadium, or a pharmacy.

### **Do people with second homes in other states have to comply with the travel order?**

Yes, per MDPH, and as of now, leisure travel across state lines is not an exempt activity. Individuals going back and forth across a state line (whether they go skiing for the day, stay in a hotel, or their own personal property, need to comply with the travel order.

### **What test is required to comply with the travel order?**

Per MDPH the appropriate test to comply with the MA Travel order is the PCR test which as of now has not been updated to also accept Antigen tests.

### **Do COVID-Recovered people still need to test for the Travel Order?**

Currently, yes, they need to test if they do not want to quarantine. The test may still show positive due to a previous infection. In this case, they will need a doctor's note to supplement a positive test. This may change shortly but as of this time has not. It is wise to keep paperwork of a date you tested positive so a timely determination can be made whether you fall within or outside of the current 90-day window known to be the

time you are unlikely to test positive a 2<sup>nd</sup> time. Please keep an eye on <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel-order>

**If a traveler has been vaccinated, are they still subject to the Travel Order (quarantine or get a PCR test)?**

Yes, at this point in time, there have not been broader recommendations made about vaccinated individuals. We still want to discourage travel. Even someone who is vaccinated should comply with the Travel Order at this time.

**Do vaccinated individuals have to quarantine if exposed?**

Yes, as of now they are treated like regularly exposed contacts.

**If someone is vaccinated and then tests PCR positive, are they a new case?**

Yes, the vaccine will not cause a COVID-19 test to be positive. These people are cases and will need to isolate accordingly. This would not be a false positive.

**Do vaccinated individuals have to comply with the Travel Order?**

Yes, they must test or quarantine.

**I have had a test because I may have been a close contact, questioned possible symptoms but feel fine. Can I go to work or school?**

No, if you go for a test, you are required to quarantine until the results of those tests are available.

**With vaccinations becoming available will my child be required to receive it?**

At this time, the Pfizer vaccine is available for individuals over the age of 16 and the Moderna vaccine is available to those over 18. There are trials underway for the pediatric population. It is expected that children may be able to start getting vaccinated towards the end of 2021. There have not, at this time, been any indications that it will be a part of the otherwise mandatory vaccinations.