

## PROTOCOL FOR COMING TO SCHOOL

A safe and healthy return to the in-person school environment will require a culture of compliance every step of the way as they pertain to MDPH regulations and how they may change moving forward. It is not any one mitigation strategy but a combination of all strategies that will substantially reduce the risk of transmission. No single strategy can ever be perfect, but all strategies together that will contribute to the protection of all. Parents and staff will be asked to do a daily symptom check before leaving home. Individuals who display the following signs and symptoms should stay home until those signs and symptoms subside: headache, chills, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, a temperature of 99.5 or above, cough, atypical fatigue, nasal congestion or runny nose not due to a known cause such as allergies or in a combination of other symptoms, shortness of breath, or with a diminished sense of taste or smell. For any absence or late arrival, please email or call the nurse before 8:30 am. The reason for the student being tardy or absent must be conveyed.

## CLOSE CONTACT OF STUDENT OR STAFF WHO TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

Protocol:

1. Per MA Department of Public Health regulations, an individual who is a close contact whether symptomatic or asymptomatic, with or without being tested will need to quarantine at home for 14 calendar days.
2. Current MDPH guidance states that all close contacts of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 should be tested. The test should be performed no sooner than 5 days after the last contact with the person who tested positive.
3. The student or staff member who was in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 should be tested at one of the Massachusetts testing sites. Sites may require pre-screening, a referral, and/or an appointment.
4. Regarding testing: the test should be performed no sooner than 5 days after the last contact with the person who tested positive. If the test was done too early the negative test will need to be repeated. It is important to note the incubation period for Covid-19 is 2-14 days and a person can transmit the virus 48 hours prior to the first sign or symptom.
5. **If test shows a POSITIVE result:** The student should remain at home and isolate (except to get medical care), monitor their symptoms, notify the school, notify personal close contacts, assist in contact tracing efforts making sure to answer the call from the individual's local board of health or MA Community Tracing Collaborative.

Most people who have relatively mild illness will need to stay in self-isolation for at least 10-14 days and until 3 days have passed with no fever and improvement of other symptoms.

## SYMPTOMATIC STAFF AT SCHOOL

Protocol:

1. Staff is encouraged not to come to school if they are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19.
2. If a staff member suspects a new onset of symptoms during the day, they should follow the school's protocols for getting another adult to cover their class mid-day, if needed
3. Staff should see the school nurse to be evaluated for symptoms
4. If no symptoms of COVID-19 staff should follow the school's standard protocol for being excused due to illness
5. If there are any present symptoms of COVID-19: Current MDPH guidance is that all symptomatic individuals in Massachusetts, even with mild symptoms, should be tested.
6. Any individual with signs or symptoms of COVID-19 must quarantine for 14 calendar days and until asymptomatic
7. Testing must be done at a MA testing site
8. Sites may require pre-screening, a referral, and/or an appointment
6. **If test shows a POSITIVE result:** The staff member should remain at home and isolate (except to get medical care), monitor their symptoms, notify the school, notify personal close contacts, assist in contact tracing efforts making sure to answer the call from the individual's local board of health or MA Community Tracing Collaborative.
9. Most people who have relatively mild illness will need to stay in self-isolation for at least 10-14 days and until 3 days have passed with no fever and improvement of other symptoms.

## SYMPTOMATIC STUDENT AT SCHOOL

Protocol:

1. Although families are the most important first line of defense for monitoring symptoms, staff will play an important role in referring possible symptomatic students to the school nurse (Note: this will require training for teachers and protocol for visit to nurse's office)
2. Staff ensures that the student is wearing a mask that fully covers their nose and mouth, at all times
3. Staff will call the nurse to inform them that they have a student who needs an assessment. The nurse will come to the class to retrieve the student if in a cohort on the first floor. If the student will be coming to the nurse from the second floor the nurse must be called as to ensure there is a space to assess the student far enough away from another student who may be receiving routine care
4. Nurse will evaluate the student for symptoms (see list: "Most common symptoms of COVID-19").

- a. IF THERE ARE NO SYMPTOMS: if the student's assessment shows that they do not have symptoms, or that their symptoms can be attributed to another known condition the student will be sent back to class (i.e. seasonal allergies in the absence of any other symptoms, asthma treatment, etc)
- b. IF THERE ARE SYMPTOMS:
  - i. Place the student in the designated isolation room
  - ii. There is no specific capacity limit for the isolation room but given students will need to be six feet apart it may be necessary to place a student in another area, not isolated to maintain distancing requirements.
  - iii. Strict mask wearing which covers the nose and mouth at all times for every person in the room must be enforced. If the student is a toddler a child's mask will be provided and encouraged.
  - iv. Students may work on individual schoolwork or other activities while in the medical waiting room
- c. Caregiver pick-up
  - i. The student will wait to be picked up in the isolation room
  - ii. Caregivers must wear a mask/face covering when picking up their student
  - iii. Caregiver should call the front desk or nurse directly upon arrival, student will be accompanied by the nurse, outside for dismissal
  - iv. Caregivers and students should wash their hands upon arriving at home and change their clothes as a precaution
- d. If the primary caregiver cannot pick up the student or if a parent can't be reached emergency contacts will be called:
  - i. The student should wait in the isolation area
  - ii. Primary caregiver and emergency contacts agree to be available to pick up student within one hour's time
- 5. Current MDPH guidance states that ALL symptomatic individuals in Massachusetts, even those with mild symptoms, should be tested
  - a. An individual who has signs of COVID-19 will need to quarantine for 14 calendar days and until asymptomatic
  - b. Testing must be performed at a MA testing site
  - c. Sites may require pre-screening, a referral, and/or appointment
  - d. Proceed as follows according to test results.
  - e.

**If test shows a POSITIVE result:** The student or staff member should remain at home and isolate (except to get medical care), monitor their symptoms, notify the school, notify personal close contacts, assist in contact tracing efforts making sure to answer the call from the individual's local board of health or MA Community Tracing Collaborative.

## **MASK PROTOCOLS**

- Masks must be worn at all times by all staff and all students with the exception of those in the toddler room
- As dictated by MDPH regulations all staff
- Students should come to school wearing their mask and have a back-up mask in a waterproof pouch or re-sealable bag in the event their mask becomes soiled, wet or breaks
- If a mask is not sitting securely on a student's face and it is noted it falls below their nose, a mask will be provided
- It is recommended that students utilize an adjustable length mask lanyard (can be found on Amazon) or a clip on their shirt so that during mask breaks the mask is readily available and not being placed on surfaces.
- Masks must be worn at outside at recess unless students are sitting 6 feet apart at which time mask breaks are encouraged. During times of activity or play masks must remain on.
- Prior to the beginning of school please practice the proper use and wearing of a mask with your child
- No gators or vented masks are to be worn

Tips on the proper use of masks and face coverings

There are many things that you can do to help protect yourself and others from becoming infected with COVID-19. People who show no symptoms of illness may still be able to spread COVID-19. A face covering may help prevent you from spreading COVID-19 to other people.

It is important that you wear these face coverings or masks in situations where it is difficult to maintain a social distance of six feet from others

When you wear a cloth mask, it should:

- Cover your nose and mouth,
- Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face,
- Be secured with ties or ear loops,
- Include multiple layers of fabric,
- Allow for breathing without restriction, and
- Be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape.

It is recommended that students utilize an adjustable length mask lanyard (can be found on Amazon) or a clip on their shirt so that during mask breaks the mask is readily available and not being placed on surfaces.

Masks must be worn at recess unless students are sitting 6 feet apart at which time mask breaks are encouraged. During times of activity or play masks must remain on.

Prior to the beginning of school please practice the proper use and wearing of a mask with your child