

Protocol: Close contact of student or staff tests positive for COVID-19

1. Current Massachusetts DPH guidance is that all *Close Contacts* of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 should be tested.
2. The student or staff member who is identified as a *Close Contact* with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 should be tested at one of Massachusetts's test sites. Sites may require pre-screening, a referral, and/or an appointment. It is recommended that *Close Contacts* consult with their primary care provider.
3. Families will be contacted by the local public health department, public health nurse or Massachusetts Community Tracing Collaborative.
4. *Close contacts* are expected to self-quarantine (isolate) at home for the time period required by the Public Health nurse, based on testing and symptom management.

Close Contact per DESE and DPH:

At both Morris Elementary School and Lenox Memorial Middle & High School: *Close Contacts* will be determined by the Department of Public Health Nurse, based on the current CDC and Massachusetts Public Health guidelines.

The infectious period begins 2 days prior to symptom onset. If someone is asymptomatic, the infectious period is considered to begin 2 days prior to the collection of their positive test.

Close contacts are asked to communicate their test results to the school. Because tests performed too early can be falsely negative, ideally the test should be performed no sooner than 5 days after the last contact with the person who tested positive. Close contacts should not return to school until after they have self-quarantined consistent with the guidance below:

- a. At least 7 days, provided that all of the following are satisfied:
 - i. They are tested (either PCR or antigen test) on day 5 or later from their last exposure to the positive individual and receive a negative test result
 - ii. They have not experienced any symptoms up to this point
 - iii. They conduct active monitoring for symptoms through day 14 and self-isolate if new symptoms develop.
 - iv. All parties within a classroom (students) must be able to adhere to masking and social distancing guidelines.
- b. At least 10 days, provided that all of the following are satisfied:
 - i. They have not experienced any symptoms up to this point
 - ii. They conduct active monitoring through day 14 and self-isolate if new symptoms develop
 - iii. No test is necessary under this option

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- c. At least 14 days after the last exposure to the person who tested positive, if:
 - i. They have experienced any symptoms during the quarantine period, even if they have a negative COVID-19 test; or
 - ii. They are unable to conduct active monitoring of symptoms

5. IF POSITIVE TEST: *Self-isolation for COVID-19 positive cases is a minimum of 10 days*

Most people who test positive and have a relatively mild illness will need to stay in self-isolation for at least 10 days. People who test positive can resume public activities after 10 days and once they have:

- a. gone for 24 hours without a fever (and without taking fever-reducing medications like Tylenol); and
- b. experienced improvement in other symptoms (for example, their cough has gotten much better); and
- c. received clearance from public health authority contact tracers (the local board of health or Community Tracing Collaborative).

FOLLOW STEPS UNDER: "Protocol: Student/staff tests positive for COVID-19."

Reminder: ONLY the Public Health Nurse has the authority to discontinue or release an individual from quarantine. *The Public Health Nurse will communicate directly with the school nurses.* Students and staff returning from close contact quarantine, or POSITIVE Covid testing, MUST report to the School Health Office Nurse before returning to the classroom. **Students and staff maybe asked to check-in daily with the school nurse prior to their first class each day, up to completion of 14 day symptom monitoring.**