



**DISTRICT PROTOCOLS FOR
RESPONDING TO
COVID-19 SCENARIOS**

March 18, 2022

GENERAL OVERVIEW

A safe Duxbury Public School return to in-person school environments requires a culture of health and safety every step of the way. Specifically:

- Duxbury Staff will monitor themselves for symptoms daily and students, with the assistance of families will also be monitored daily for symptoms. Duxbury Staff and students will be expected to stay home if feeling sick.
- All members of the Duxbury School community will do their part to protect others and not come to school if they are exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms or are feeling sick.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section 1: Key Definitions	4
COVID 19 Symptoms	4
Masking	4
Primary Point of Contact	5
Close Contacts	6
Recommended testing and quarantine response protocols	7
Protocol A: For individuals who test positive for COVID-19	8
Protocol B: Protocol for asymptomatic close contacts	8
Protocol C: Protocol for symptomatic individuals	10
Section 3: Frequently Asked Questions	12

Section 1: Key Definitions

COVID 19 Symptoms

COVID-19 symptoms

- **Fever (100.0° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills**
- **Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath**
- **New loss of taste or smell**
- **Muscle aches or body aches**
- Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
- Sore throat, *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Headache *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Fatigue, *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies) *when in combination with other symptoms*

Unvaccinated individuals and any close contacts presenting these symptoms should follow testing and quarantine response protocols as outlined in this document.

Vaccinated individuals who are not close contacts should follow the testing and quarantine response protocols if they are experiencing symptoms in bold. These individuals may also seek clinical guidance to assess the need for PCR testing if they have other symptoms on this list.

Masking

- **Effective Monday, February 28, the DESE mask requirement was lifted statewide.**
- The Duxbury School Committee Face Coverings Policy EBCFA was updated on February 10, 2022 and February 28, 2022:
 - A face covering that covers the nose and mouth is strongly recommended to be worn by individuals who remain unvaccinated or are otherwise immunocompromised in school buildings, and on school grounds, even when social distancing is observed.
 - Students and staff returning from 5 day quarantine following a positive COVID test must follow strict mask use, other than when eating, drinking, or outside, and conduct active monitoring for symptoms, through day 10 of exposure.
 - All staff and students must wear masks while in school health offices but masks are no longer required on school buses (see CDC information below).

- Any Duxbury community member who prefers to mask at school should be supported in this choice.
- The CDC has also updated its masking recommendations:
 - Effective February 25, 2022, CDC is exercising its enforcement discretion to not require that people wear masks on buses or vans operated by public or private school systems, including early care and education/child care programs. The CDC made this change to align with updated guidance that no longer recommends universal indoor mask wearing in K-12 schools and early education settings in areas with a low or medium COVID-19 Community Level. School systems at their discretion may choose to require that people wear masks on buses or vans.

Please note: DESE and DPH will continue to consult with medical advisors and may update the masking requirements above as we learn more about COVID-19’s effects on hospitalizations in Massachusetts and on children.

Primary Point of Contact

The School Nurse at each building will be the primary point of contact should a staff member, or student present as symptomatic or receive a positive test for COVID-19. The School Nurse will notify the Building Administrator/s. Collectively they will coordinate communication regarding possible COVID cases, specifically with contact tracing, notifying families, staff, administration, and maintenance as needed. Our Building Administrators will coordinate receiving students out of the classroom or off the bus and escorting patients to the health office if a nurse or assistant is unavailable due to patients in the health office. This pertains to students who are showing concerning symptoms and the bus company or the teacher called ahead. This helps facilitate the flow into the health office and minimizes increased cross exposure to other students, staff etc.

Chandler School Nurse: Katie Jacobson - kjacobson@duxbury.k12.ma.us
Alden School Nurse: Sarah Dooley- sdooley@duxbury.k12.ma.us
DMS School Nurse: Karen Doyle, District Nurse Leader- kdoyle@duxbury.k12.ma.us
DHS School Nurses: Margi Malone- mmalone@duxbury.k12.ma.us
Andrea O’Neil aoneil@duxbury.k12.ma.us



Close Contacts

Close contacts are defined as individuals who have been within 6 feet of a COVID-19 positive individual while indoors, for at least 15 minutes (cumulative) during a 24-hour period. Please note that the at-risk exposure time begins 48 hours prior to symptom onset (or time of positive test if asymptomatic) and continues until the time the COVID-19 positive individual is isolated.

In general, close contacts should follow the testing and quarantine response protocols in this document. However, certain close contacts are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols as noted below.

Close Contacts who are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols

The following close contacts are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols:

- Asymptomatic, fully vaccinated close contacts: Individuals who are asymptomatic and fully vaccinated are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols.
- Classroom close contacts: An individual who is exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual in the classroom while both individuals were masked, so long as the individuals were spaced at least 3 feet apart, is exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols.
- Close contacts who have had COVID-19 within the past 90 days: An individual who has been previously diagnosed with COVID-19 and then becomes a close contact of someone with COVID-19 is exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols if:
 - The exposure occurred within 90 days of the onset of their own illness AND
 - The exposed individual is recovered and remains without COVID-19 symptoms (positive result confirmed by copy of lab result or Local Board of Health).

Recommended testing and quarantine response protocols

This section outlines testing and quarantine response protocols for individuals – students and staff – who test positive for COVID-19, close contacts who are not exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols, and symptomatic individuals. Each scenario outlines the duration of any recommended quarantine or isolation, the conditions to be met in order for the individual to return to school, and any additional considerations.

Overview of Protocol Categories:

- **Protocol A:** For individuals who test positive for COVID-19
- **Protocol B:** Protocol for asymptomatic close contacts
- **Protocol C:** Protocol for symptomatic individuals

Protocol A: For individuals who test positive for COVID-19

- **Duration:** Isolation for all COVID-19 positive cases regardless of vaccination status is a minimum of 5 days after symptom onset or after positive PCR or antigen test, if asymptomatic.
- **Return to school:** After 5 days ***and*** once they have:
 - Been without fever for 24 hours (and without taking fever-reducing medications); ***and***
 - Experienced improvement in other symptoms; ***and***
 - Following the 5-day isolation period, individuals must mask for 5 additional days when around others. Individuals who are unable to mask should follow the information provided in the [FAQ](#) released on October 12, 2021.
 - Individuals who do not meet these criteria after 5 days may receive clearance from either public health authority contact tracers (the local board of health or Community Tracing Collaborative) or school health professional before returning to school.

Note: Return to school should be based on time and symptom resolution. Repeat testing prior to return is not recommended.

Protocol B: Protocol for asymptomatic close contacts

Close contacts who are not exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols and are asymptomatic follow the guidelines in Protocol B below. **Please recall that all asymptomatic, fully vaccinated individuals are exempt from close contact testing and quarantine response protocols and therefore do not need to follow Protocol B.** However, fully vaccinated individuals are expected to monitor for symptoms and stay home and get tested if they experience symptoms, in alignment with statewide guidance and Protocol C.

Note: In some cases, individuals may be asked to follow specific testing and quarantine response protocols (including durations for quarantine/isolation) provided by contact tracers or local health officials which may differ from the recommended protocols below.

Protocol B for asymptomatic close contacts who are not exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols

Districts who participate in the statewide COVID-19 testing program or another similar testing program are strongly encouraged to utilize the new Test and Stay (B-1) protocol option to

minimize the amount of time individuals are out of school. This testing and quarantine response protocol has been shown to be generally equivalent to quarantine for school-based contacts, and a safe alternative to at-home isolation. If schools choose not to participate in the statewide COVID-19 testing program and do not participate in a similar testing initiative, unvaccinated individuals follow the traditional quarantine (B-2) protocol.

Individuals who are part of the Test and Stay protocols may be eligible to participate in school sports and extracurricular activities, provided that they are in compliance with the applicable protocol. For events and sports that take place on non-school days, testing will still be required on those days to participate.

As part of Test and Stay, quarantine is still strongly recommended for individuals outside of school settings.

Protocol C: Protocol for symptomatic individuals

Protocol C applies to vaccinated and non-vaccinated individuals who experience the COVID-19 symptoms listed in Section 1 applicable to their status, and who have not tested positive for COVID-19.

Protocol C-1: Return to school post-symptoms with test

- **Duration:** Dependent on symptom resolution
- **Return to School:** Individuals may return to school after all of the following are met:
 - DPH guidance recommends that individuals receive a negative PCR or antigen test result for COVID-19. An antigen test may be self-administered and does not need to be proctored or performed by a healthcare professional. Note: So long as the individual is not a close contact.
 - If a medical professional makes an alternative diagnosis for the COVID-19-like symptoms, the individual may use this recommendation (e.g., for influenza or strep pharyngitis) in lieu of a PCR test or antigen test.
 - Have improvement in symptoms.
 - Have been without fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.

Note: If the symptomatic individual was a close contact who is not exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols, after symptoms resolve and they receive a negative PCR or antigen test, they should follow Protocol B-1 for Test and Stay. If the family or adult individual opts out of Test and Stay, they will follow Protocol B-2 or B-3.

Protocol C-3: Protocol for symptomatic individuals during the school day

- **Duration:** Dependent on symptom resolution
- **Return to School:** A student or staff member presents to the school health office with any symptoms from the list in Section 1, parent or guardian can consent to a BinaxNOW test if available.

- If the result is positive, they should be sent home and follow Protocol A.
- If the result is negative, they should be sent home depending on the severity of the symptoms. The student's parent/guardian, or the staff member, should be informed that the negative test is presumptive and they should follow Protocol C-1.

Note: BinaxNOW tests are less sensitive and less specific than PCR tests. PCR confirmation is recommended for asymptomatic persons with a positive BinaxNOW test, and for symptomatic persons with a negative test, unless those symptoms are unlikely to be due to COVID-19. If the results are discordant, for the purposes of these protocols the PCR result would be taken as the true result, assuming the two tests are done within 2 days of each other.

***Mild Symptoms:** A student or staff member presents to the school health office with mild symptoms from the list in Section 1, parent or guardian can consent to a BinaxNOW test if available.

- If the result is positive, they should be sent home and follow Protocol A.
- If the result is negative, they should remain in school.
 - If the minimal symptom(s) persist, the individual may be re-tested within the subsequent 3 days. If symptoms worsen, the individual should seek medical care and be evaluated for the need for PCR testing.

Section 3: Frequently Asked Questions

Who should receive a diagnostic test?

- If staff or students have COVID-19 symptoms, they should be tested and follow the protocols outlined in Protocol C.

When and how should BinaxNOW tests be used for diagnostic purposes?

- The BinaxNOW test is a rapid antigen test. Rapid antigen tests perform best when the person is tested in the early stages of infection with COVID-19, when the viral load is generally highest.
- When a student or staff member presents to the school health office with any symptom from the list in Section 1, they should receive a BinaxNOW test if available.
 - If the result is positive, they should be sent home and follow Protocol A.
 - If the result is negative, they should be sent home. The student's parent/guardian, or the staff member, should be informed that the negative test is presumptive and they should follow Protocol C.

Note: BinaxNOW tests are less sensitive and less specific than PCR tests. PCR confirmation is recommended for asymptomatic persons with a positive BinaxNOW test, and for symptomatic persons with a negative test, unless those symptoms are unlikely to be due to COVID-19. If the results are discordant, for the purposes of these protocols the PCR result would be taken as the true result, assuming the two tests are done within 2 days of each other.

How should schools address individuals with mild symptoms during the school day?

- If an individual has mild symptoms, the individual may be considered for testing using BinaxNOW, if available.
 - If the result is positive, they should be sent home and follow Protocol A.
 - If the result is negative, they should remain in school.
- If the minimal symptom(s) persist, the individual may be re-tested within the subsequent 3 days. If symptoms worsen, the individual should seek medical care and be evaluated for the need for PCR testing.

What should districts and schools do if they have a high volume of cases?

- Districts and schools can contact the DESE Rapid Response Help Center at 781-338-3500 for guidance if they are experiencing a high volume of cases. Notification should also be provided to local boards of health and district leadership.

Where can individuals receive an individual PCR test?

Current available local testing sites for Covid-19:

Convenient MD - Pembroke

296 Old Oak Street

Pembroke, MA 02359

339-244-3033

Harbor Medical - Pembroke

15 Corporate Park Drive

Pembroke, Ma 02359

617-724-7000

Health Express - Kingston

182 Summer Street

Kingston, MA 02364

781-626-5340

Atrius Health - Harvard Vanguard PMG

10 Cordage Park Cir, Plymouth, MA 02360

PHONE: 617-629-6000

HOURS: 8:00am-6:00pm Mon-Fri

Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital Plymouth Drive-Thru

275 Sandwich St, Plymouth, MA 02360

PHONE: 508-746-2000

HOURS: 11:00am-12:00pm & 1:00pm-2:30pm Mon / 12:30-1:30pm Thurs / 6:30am-9:00am & 10:00am-12:00pm Tues, Wed, Fri / Closed Sat-Sun

Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital Plymouth

281 Sandwich St, Plymouth, MA 02360

PHONE: 508-746-2000

HOURS: 24 HRS

CVS Carver - Minute Clinic

100D North Main St, Carver, MA 02330

PHONE:

HOURS: 9:00am-6:00pm Mon-Fri / 9:00am-5:00pm Sat-Sun

South Shore Medical Center Drive-Up

143 Long Water Dr, Norwell, MA 02061

PHONE: 781-681-0365

HOURS: 7:30am-2:00pm Mon-Fri / 8:00am-12:00pm Sat-Sun

CVS Bridgewater - Minute Clinic

9-19 Summer St, Bridgewater, MA 02324

PHONE:

HOURS: 9:00am-6:00pm Mon-Fri / 9:00am-5:00pm Sat-Sun

Health Express Abington

170 Bedford St., Abington, MA 02351

PHONE: 781-626-5700

HOURS: 9:00am-7:00pm Mon-Fri / 9:00am-4:00pm Sat-Sun CareWell Urgent Care Norwell

42 Washington St, Norwell, MA 02061

PHONE: 781-421 3503

HOURS: 8:00am-8:00pm Mon-Sun

Fallon Ambulance - Massasoit Community College

1 Massasoit Blvd, Brockton, MA 02302

PHONE:

HOURS: 7:00am-11:00am Mon, Wed, Fri / 2:00pm-7:00pm Tue, Thurs, Sat

Brockton Hospital

680 Centre St, Brockton, MA 02302

PHONE: 508-941-7000

HOURS: Call for information

Convenient MD - Weymouth
987 Main St, Weymouth, MA 02190
PHONE: 781-927 3000
HOURS: 8:00am-8:00pm Mon-Sun

South Shore Hospital
55 Fogg Rd, South Weymouth, MA 02190
PHONE: 781-624 8000
HOURS: 24 HRS

Staff and students who have symptoms should also contact their primary care provider for further instructions.