



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

August 29, 2022

A safe Duxbury Public Schools environment 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.

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Overview

Effective August 15, 2022, children and staff in child care and K-12, settings will follow the guidance listed below.

- A [rapid antigen test](#), such as a self-test, is preferred to a PCR test in most situations.
- To count days for isolation, Day 0 is the first day of symptoms OR the day the day positive test was taken, whichever is earlier.
- Contact tracing is no longer recommended in school settings, but Duxbury Schools will continue to work with our local Board of Health in the case of outbreaks.
- The Commonwealth is not recommending universal mask requirements, surveillance testing of asymptomatic individuals, contact tracing, or test-to-stay testing in schools. While masks are not required or recommended in these settings except for in school health offices, any individual who wishes to continue to mask, including those who face higher risk from COVID-19, should be supported in that choice. For those who need or choose to mask, masking is never required in these settings while the individual is eating, drinking, sleeping or outside.
- All individuals are encouraged to stay up-to-date with vaccination as vaccines remain the best way to help protect yourself and others.

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
 Pat Queeney - pqueeney@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

Isolation and Exposure Guidance and Protocols

Guidance for Children in Child Care & K-12 Settings:

- Quarantine is no longer required nor recommended for children or staff in these settings, regardless of vaccination status or where the exposure occurred. All exposed individuals may continue to attend programming as long as they remain asymptomatic. Those who can mask should do so until Day 10, and it is recommended that they test on Day 6 of exposure. If symptoms develop, follow the guidance for symptomatic individuals, below.
- Children and staff who test positive must isolate for at least 5 days. If they are asymptomatic or symptoms are resolving and they have been fever free without the use of fever-reducing medicine for 24 hours, they may return to school after Day 5 and should wear a high-quality mask through Day 10:
 - If the individual has a negative test on Day 5 or later, they do not need to mask.
- Symptomatic individuals can remain in school if they have mild symptoms, and if they test negative at home. Best practice would also include wearing a mask, if possible, until symptoms are fully resolved. For symptomatic individuals, DPH recommends a second test within 48 hours if the initial test is negative.
 - Symptomatic individuals will be sent home and allowed to return to school if symptoms remain mild and they test negative at home, or they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and their symptoms are resolving, or if a medical professional makes an alternative diagnosis. A negative test is strongly recommended for return.

Covid 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, *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*
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