COVID-19 PROTOCOLS
August 2022

Strategies for Everyday Operations:

- **Staying Up to Date on Vaccinations** is recommended to prevent illness from many different infections, including COVID-19. This is the leading public health strategy to prevent severe disease.
- **Staying home when sick.** Testing is recommended for people with symptoms of COVID-19 as soon as possible after symptoms begin.
- **Ventilation** to improve indoor air quality and reduce the risk of airborne spread of viruses and other contaminants. Currently, schools are equipped with adequate ventilation systems. Additional steps that can be taken to increase outdoor air intake and improve air filtration include safely opening windows and doors, including on school buses and other modes of transportation as needed.
- **Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette** are essential to lower the risk of spreading viruses. Staff should teach and reinforce proper handwashing and how to cover coughs and sneezes.
- **Cleaning** should consist of cleaning surfaces with appropriate cleaning solutions at least once a day to reduce the risk of germs spreading by touching surfaces.
- Please support all students/staff who prefer to wear a mask at all times while in school.

https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-mask-requirements#mask-requirements-in-certain-locations-

Symptomatic in school:

ANY symptomatic student that presents with one of the below symptoms (in bold) is to be sent to the MWR and dismissed home with a recommendation for testing, referral to the Family Health Center (FHC), or provided with a home test kit as supplies are available.

- Fever (100.0°F or higher), chills or shaking chills
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell
- Muscle aches or body aches

Or, if they present with symptoms below, they are to be dismissed based on the School Nurse assessment:

- Cough (not due to other known causes, such as a 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

**Vaccinated student:**
• Get tested and isolate immediately if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

**Asymptomatic students:**
• No asymptomatic person should be excluded from school as a result of exposure, regardless of vaccination status or exposure setting.
• Contact Tracing will no longer be conducted.

**Student tests positive for COVID-19:**
• **Isolate** for five days, return to school on the 6th day if symptoms have improved, and fever free for 24 hours without medication. Individuals must wear a mask upon return to school through Day 10 unless test negative after day six or later. If a child is unable to wear a mask, they may return to school with a negative test on day six or later.

**Staff tests positive for COVID-19:**
If a staff member becomes symptomatic while at school, a mask should be donned immediately.
• **Isolate** for five days or until symptoms and fever free without the use of medications. Must wear a mask upon return to school through Day 10 unless test negative after day six or later.
• Any staff member who becomes positive should call Rob Pezzella (508-889-7436). May be referred to the FHC for testing.
• Principals will be contacted by Rob Pezzella about positive staff members. School Nurses will notify the Principal of any students who test positive for COVID-19.

**Medical Waiting Room (MWR):**
• Will continue to be utilized to begin the new year.
• Staffed by an agency Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). They can assist a student from a classroom if a teacher has concerns about COVID-19 symptoms, or the student can be sent to the nursing office with a mask on; if possible, alerting the nurse beforehand is recommended. For those students who cannot wear masks due to age or disabilities, try to maintain 6 feet of social distance between students/staff.
• Students will be brought masked to the MWR; the mask and possibly a face shield will remain on the student until dismissed. Guardian will be called to pick up the student.
• Masks are required to be worn at all times by anyone entering the MWR.
• Staff will continue to wear PPE per DPH Comprehensive PPE guidance.
• All PPE will be available in these rooms. Please contact Rob Pezzella at 508-889-7436 if you need more supplies.
• If no student is in the MWR, the CNA will assist the School Nurse. The CNA is also available to support school needs as situations arise.
Health Office:
- Masks are required to be worn at all times by anyone entering the office.

Hand Sanitizer:
- Access should be set up where school staff are typically present, such as common areas, hallways, and the front of classrooms. Hand sanitizer dispensers should not be placed in locations that children frequent unsupervised, like bathrooms or empty hallways. This vigilance is key for the safety of all students.
- Parents are provided with an option to opt-out of hand sanitizer use.

Contacts:

Dr. Debra D. McGovern, Director of Nursing and Health Services
Office: 508-799-8554, Cellphone: 774-242-5610

For PPE Information or Staff COVID Reporting
Robert Pezzella, Director of School Safety
Office: 508-799-3472, Cellphone: 508-889-7436

Resources:

Jeffrey C. Riley, Commissioner, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and Margaret Cooke, Commissioner, Department of Public Health, August 15, 2022
Update on COVID-19 Matters in K-12 Schools for Fall 2022
https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/2022-0815covid19-guide-update.docx

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, August 11, 2022
Operational Guidance for K-12 Schools and Early Care and Education Programs to Support Safe In-Person Learning