



Back to School
2021-2022
August 31,
2021

Pembroke Public Schools

DESE Recommended Guidance for K-12 Education

Recommendations made jointly with the
Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH)
Updated 8/25/2021

- **DESE Masking Mandate:**
 - All students and staff K-12 regardless of vaccination status must wear a mask while indoors at school
 - Student athletes participating in indoor activities must be masked
 - Masking is not required while eating or drinking or while outdoors
- **Pembroke will extend masking to PreK students**
- **Federal Mask Mandates**
 - **Busses/Health Offices**
 - Individuals on school busses or any form of public transportation (including specialized transportation) are required to be **masked at all times.**
 - Staff and students must be **masked at all times** while in the health office.

Protocols and Best Practices for Fall 2021

- Students will maintain a distance of 3 feet or greater in all indoor settings (e.g. student desks, classroom rug seating, cafeteria seating)
- Handwashing protocols will remain in place and be continually reinforced
- Enhanced Sanitation and Disinfection protocols will remain in place
 - Wiping down of frequently touched surfaces multiple times per day
 - Increased Disinfection of shared materials
 - Continuation of full classroom disinfection at the end of the day
- Continuation of Air Quality Monitoring & HVAC functioning
 - Ongoing Air Quality Testing
 - Open windows wherever possible
 - UV light sanitation at PHS
 - Replacement of filters monthly (MERV11/13)
 - Continuous repair and maintenance of units as needed
- Leniency on Attendance Policy:
 - Encouraging students and staff to remain home when experiencing any symptoms
- Utilization of outdoor spaces whenever possible
- Maintain COVID-19 Dashboard on school website

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.
- Bus close contacts: Individuals on buses must be masked according to federal requirements. As such, individuals who are masked on buses when windows are open are 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:
 - o The exposure occurred within 90 days of the onset of their own illness AND
 - o The exposed individual is recovered and remains without COVID-19 symptoms.

Close Contact Determination and Quarantining Protocols

- Close Contacts are defined as any individual that has been within 6 feet of space of a COVID-19 positive case for more than 15 minutes cumulative in a 24-hour period.
 - At three feet of spacing with masks, there would be no classroom based contact tracing.
- Asymptomatic vaccinated close contacts do not need to quarantine or test but must monitor themselves for symptoms for at least 14 days.
- Asymptomatic unvaccinated close contacts do need to quarantine or test
 - If not testing you must quarantine for 10 days and may return on day 11 as long as you remain asymptomatic
 - If testing, you must test on day 5 or later and if negative you may return after day 7
 - These individuals may participate in the test to stay program (see slide 13)
- Symptomatic vaccinated & unvaccinated close contacts need to test and/or quarantine for the timelines outlined above before returning to school
- Students and staff not identified as close contact but exhibiting symptoms (see updated list) associated with COVID-19 must provide a negative test result before they can return to school
- [DESE Quarantine Protocols/Flow Chart](#)

Test & Stay Protocol

- Unvaccinated individuals identified as close contact may consent to participate in the Test to Stay Protocol.
- What this entails:
 - Individuals would be tested each morning for five school days following the known exposure, using the BinaxNow rapid antigen test (lower anterior nasal swab)
 - Testing would be administered by our school health personnel.
 - Once the results are received (generally takes 10 minutes) students/staff would join their class for instruction.
 - Close contacts are advised to quarantine on weekends. By testing over a 5 school day period, close contacts would be monitored for full 7 days outlined in the quarantining guidelines.
 - Unvaccinated individuals that do not wish to consent would follow the regular quarantine/testing guidance
 - Per the CDC/DPH, vaccinated individuals do not need to test or quarantine.

Test & Stay Protocol(cont.)

- Identified close contacts vaccinated and unvaccinated must be masked at all times, unless eating or drinking
- When eating or drinking identified close contacts must be at least 3 feet from others
- Individuals who are part of the Test & Stay protocol may participate in extracurricular/sports activities provided they are in compliance with applicable protocol. For events and sports that take place on non school days, testing will still be required on those days in order to participate.
- Digital consent form for Test & Stay located on Health Services tab on the website

Appendix:

- Updated list of COVID-19 symptoms
- Detailed protocols for each close contact/positive case scenario

COVID-19 Updated Symptoms

- COVID-19 symptoms list:
- 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

Protocol A: Individual Tests Positive for COVID-19

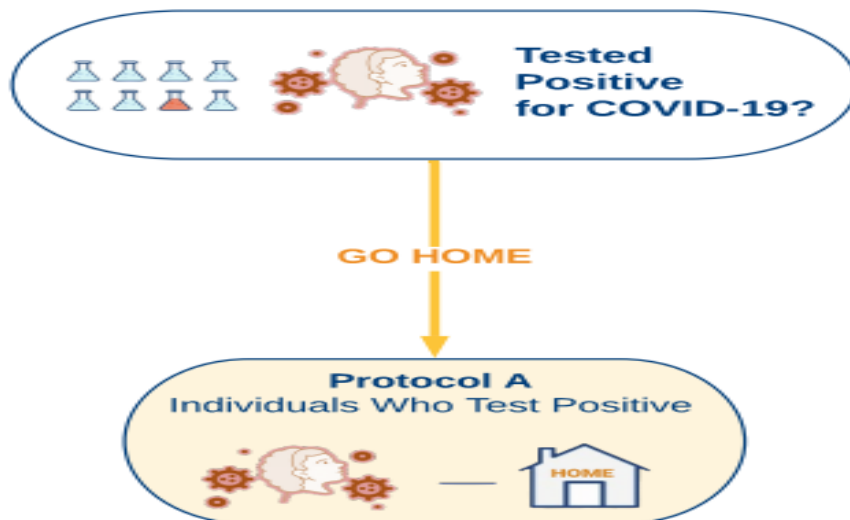
PATHWAY LEGEND



stay in school



go home



Return to school on day 11 and once:

1. Symptoms improve
2. Fever-free without fever-reducing medicine for 24 hours

Please Note:

- The 10-day period starts with onset of symptoms or after positive PCR or antigen test if individual is asymptomatic.
 - If individual tests positive as part of a pooled test, the 10-day period begins the day the pooled test returned a positive result.
- Individuals who do not meet these criteria after 10 days should receive clearance from either public health authority contract tracers (the local board of health of Community Tracing Collaborative) or school health professionals before returning to school.
- Return to school should be based on time and symptoms resolution. It is not recommended that individuals take another COVID test prior to return.

Protocol B: Asymptomatic Close Contacts

PATHWAY LEGEND

- stay in school
- go home

Close Contact with COVID-19 Infection and You Are Asymptomatic?

- Exempt from Testing and Quarantine:*
- **Asymptomatic, fully vaccinated**
 - **Classroom close contacts** provided both individuals were masked and at least 3 feet apart
 - **Bus close contacts** provided individuals were masked and bus windows were open
 - **Had COVID within the past 90 days**

Are you exempt from testing and quarantine?

YES

Remain in School

NO

Does your school offer Test and Stay and you are opting in?

YES

Protocol B-1: Test and Stay
recommended option

Duration is 7 days. Testing is on school days + any extracurricular weekend days

Remain in school so long as you are asymptomatic and:

- Wear a mask in school at all times, other than when eating or drinking (keep 3' distance when unmasked to the extent feasible).
- Test negative daily on school days and any weekend days for extracurricular activities (weekend tests = eMed Take Home Test)
- Quarantine at home on non-school/extracurricular days
- Monitor symptoms through day 14

NO

Which option will you follow?

Quarantine + 1 Test

Protocol B-2 Traditional Protocol

Return to school on day 8 provided you:

1. Remain asymptomatic
2. Receive negative COVID PCR or rapid antigen test on **day 5 or later**
3. Monitor symptoms through **day 14**

Please Note: If not following Test and Stay, this is the preferred option to cut down on a student's absence from school.

Quarantine + No Test

Protocol B-3 Alternate Protocol

Return to school on day 11 provided you:

1. Remain asymptomatic
2. Monitor symptoms through **day 14**

