

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We wanted to give you a brief overview of the guidance and protocols from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education related to COVID-19 as we begin our school year. Our top priority continues to be keeping our students, teachers, and staff safe and healthy. We want to stress the importance of doing the daily symptoms checklist (see below) with your child each morning prior to coming to school. The most important thing you can do as a parent/guardian is to keep your child at home at the first sign of a symptom or exposure to the virus.

In the past 24 hours has your student experienced any of the following symptoms:

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

Has your student been within 6 feet of a person with a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19 for at least 10-15 minutes, or had direct contact with their mucus or saliva, in the past 14 days?

Has a public health official advised your student to get tested for COVID-19?

Has your student traveled to a state considered a high-risk state for greater than 24 hours?

*If your student has been **exposed** to an individual who is COVID-19 positive or presumed to be COVID-19 positive then they may not return to school for 14 days.

If you answered yes to any of the symptoms, please have your student stay home from school and follow up with their healthcare provider.

Please contact the school nurse immediately if your student or someone in your household has any of the above symptoms.

Our planning process has included thinking ahead about what we will do and how we will communicate with you should a student or staff member show symptoms at school or test positive for COVID-19. We want to share those with you in advance so that you have a clear understanding of what to expect. You **will** be notified if there is a positive case in your child's classroom even if your child is not a close contact. A close contact is defined as an individual who has been within 6 feet of a positive case for greater than 15 minutes. **Only those deemed close contacts will be required to be tested AND quarantine for 14 days.** We will work with the local board of health to help assist in identifying those individuals. While some specifics may vary depending on the situation, there are some common steps that will be taken if someone is symptomatic, comes in contact with an affected person, or tests positive:

- Evaluation of the person's symptoms by the school nurse
- Individual will be placed in the medical waiting room, parent/guardian will be called for dismissal per health office protocol
- Areas will be cleaned and disinfected
- Referral to healthcare provider for evaluation and potential COVID-19 test
- Stay at home while awaiting results or alternative diagnosis given by healthcare provider

- If the test is positive:

- o Remain at home for at least 10 days and until more than 24 hours have passed with no fever and improvement in other symptoms
- o Watch symptoms closely
- o Notify the school nurse and personal close contacts
 - o Answer the call from local board of health or Massachusetts Community Tracing Collaborative to identify close contacts and help prevent transmission
- o Any students or staff who were close contacts will be notified immediately

- If the test is negative for someone who was a close contact of someone who tested positive:

- o Return to school after the required 14-day quarantine period.

- If the test is negative for a person who is symptomatic but was not in close contact with someone who tested positive:

- o Return to school once 24 hours have passed with no fever and improvement in symptoms, without the use of fever reducing medications.

For more information on COVID-19 symptoms and testing, please visit:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/about-covid-19-testing#where-can-get-a-test?>

The best way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 along with hand washing, mask wearing, and social distancing is to keep your child home when they are ill. If you have any additional questions, please contact Jen Rosenberg, Nurse Leader at rosenbergj@foxborough.k12.ma.us or 508-543-1646. Thank you in advanced for your continued support and cooperation.