

## Chelsea Public Schools

# Frequently Asked Questions for the Protocols for Responding to Covid-19 Scenarios

September, 2021

### 1. What protocols will CPS follow when dealing with Covid-19 scenarios?

CPS will follow the DESE Protocols for Responding to Covid-19 Scenarios. These Protocols can be found at the link below along with a link to a more visual “flowchart” that summarizes the process. Asymptomatic close contacts may participate in the “Test and Stay” program by taking a rapid antigen nasal swab test that will produce results in 15 minutes as long as there is a completed consent on file.

DESE Protocols for Responding to Covid-19 Scenarios:

<https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/protocols/>

DESE Protocols for Responding to Covid-19 Scenarios (Flowchart):

<https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/flowcharts.pdf>

### 2. What should I do if I receive a positive result, am identified as a close contact, or am experiencing symptoms related to Covid-19?

Anyone in the Chelsea Public Schools community that learns that they are positive for Covid-19, is identified as a close contact, or is experiencing symptoms related to Covid-19 should report that information to the school nurse and the building principal. That information will trigger the school and district to initiate the appropriate protocol for the specific scenario.

### 3. What will happen once I report that I am positive, a close contact, or am symptomatic?

Trained staff will oversee the proper steps for each specific scenario.

In the event of a positive case, the positive individual will be required to isolate and remain off campus for 10 days and will be cleared to return on day 11, assuming they are symptom free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications. The school and district will then initiate contact tracing. In order to help with this, the positive individual will be required to identify any close contacts going back to 48 hours prior to the test date or the onset of symptoms, whichever came first. Close contacts are defined as anyone who was within 6 feet indoors for at least 15 minutes during a 24 hour period. The school and district will then communicate with any close contacts. Positive cases are reported weekly as case counts. Individuals directly impacted by a positive case, including people that share a classroom with the positive individual will be notified.

In the event of a close contact, the school or district will work with the close contact to determine the proper protocol. Certain close contacts are exempt from testing and quarantine, including individuals who are both fully vaccinated and asymptomatic, classroom close contacts who were masked and at least 3 feet apart, bus close contacts if masked and windows open, and individuals who had Covid within the past 90 days. For those not exempt from testing and quarantine, they may participate in our “Test and Stay” program provided they complete the digital consent form found [here](#) or at the link below.

<https://www.cic-health.com/consent/ma?district=null>

For those that do not complete consent, a 10-day quarantine will be required.

In the event an individual is experiencing symptoms, a quarantine may be required which may be shortened with a negative PCR test and improvement of symptoms, provided the individual is fever free.

#### **4. When will I receive results?**

The lab typically reports results within 24 hours. No news is good news. If your result is negative, you will not receive results. If your result is positive, the school will contact you. Contact tracing protocols will be followed in the event of a positive case. Any close contacts will also be notified.