Updated 11-5-2020

**Protocol: Close contact of student or staff tests positive for COVID-19**

Current Massachusetts DPH guidance is that all close contacts of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 should be tested.[1]

The student or staff member who was in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 should be tested at one of Massachusetts’s test sites.[2] Sites may require pre-screening, a referral, and/or an appointment.

Close contacts should isolate at home prior to testing and while awaiting test results.

Close contacts are asked to communicate their test results to the school. They should not return to school until they have quarantined for 14 days. This includes close contacts who receive a negative test result or who choose not to be tested.[3] Because tests performed too early can be falsely negative, ideally the test should be performed no sooner than 4 or 5 days after the last contact with the person who tested positive.

**IF POSITIVE TEST:** The student or staff member should remain at home (except to get medical care), monitor their symptoms, notify the school, notify personal close contacts, assist the school in contact tracing efforts, and answer the call from local board of health or Massachusetts Community Tracing Collaborative. Most people who have relatively mild illness will need to stay in self-isolation for at least 10 days **and** until at least 24 hours have passed with no fever and improvement in other symptoms. **FOLLOW STEPS UNDER:** “Protocol: Student / staff tests positive for COVID-19.”

Revised 9-14-2020