Updated 11-5-2020

**Protocol: Student is symptomatic on the bus**

Although families are the most important first line of defense for monitoring symptoms, bus drivers and bus monitors also play an important role in flagging possible symptomatic students. Note: This will require training for bus drivers (and bus monitors, if applicable).

If symptoms are noticed as the student is getting on the bus and if there is a caregiver present, do not allow the student to board the bus. Caregiver should then **FOLLOW**: “Protocol: Student is symptomatic at home.”

If a student is already on the bus, ensure the student is masked and the student keeps a mask on covering nose and mouth at all times. If the student does not have a mask, the bus driver should be equipped to provide one. Ensure other students keep their masks on covering their nose and mouth at all times. Ensure students keep required physical distance from other students.

If not already open, windows should be opened as fully as possible, weather permitting.

Bus driver/monitor should call ahead to the bus service dispatch. The bus service dispatch should be equipped with appropriate cell phone numbers for school and district personnel (nurse or other medical personnel). The dispatch should contact the school to inform the school nurse (or school medical point of contact) of a possible symptomatic child.

School nurse (or school medical point of contact) should meet the bus as it arrives, wearing a mask. As practical, students with possible symptoms should exit the bus first.

Bus should be cleaned / disinfected.

Nurse (or school medical point of contact) should evaluate the student for symptoms (see list above: “Most common symptoms of COVID-19”).

**IF ANY SYMPTOM:**

Place the student in the designated medical waiting room. This space must be supervised. **If feasible given** space and staffing constraints, schools are encouraged to provide individual students with their own waiting room. If more than one student is in the same waiting room at a time, each student must be at least 6 feet apart (and should be spaced as far apart as possible) and wearing a surgical mask (non-N95 and non-cloth) while in the medical waiting room.[1] If a student does not already have a surgical mask, the school should provide one. Schools must also be equipped with the PPE for the staff involved with supervision of the waiting room. Strict mask wearing covering the nose and mouth at all times for every person in the room must be enforced. Students can work on individual schoolwork or other activities while in the medical waiting room.
Contact caregiver for pick-up.

**IF CAREGIVER CAN PICK UP DURING THE DAY:** Student waits to be picked up in the medical waiting room. Caregivers must wear a mask/face covering when picking up their student. Students should not ride the school bus to get home. Caregivers and students should wash their hands upon arriving at home and change their clothes, as a precaution.

**IF CAREGIVER CANNOT PICK UP DURING THE DAY:** The student should wait in the medical waiting room until the end of the day to be picked up by the caregiver. The student should not go home on a school bus with other students.

iii. Current Massachusetts DPH guidance is that all symptomatic individuals in Massachusetts, even those with mild symptoms, should be tested.[2] An individual who does not wish to be tested may return to school 10 days[3] from start of symptoms, as long as their symptoms have improved and they have been without fever for at least 24 hours prior to their return to school without the use of fever reducing medication.

Student should get tested at one of Massachusetts’s test sites.[4] Sites may require pre-screening, a referral, and/or an appointment.

Isolate at home until test results are returned. Proceed as follows according to test results:

**IF NEGATIVE:** Students may return to school after they have tested negative for COVID-19, have improvement in symptoms, and have been without fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications. If a provider makes an alternative diagnosis for the COVID-19-like symptoms, the individual may return to school based on the recommendations for that alternative diagnosis (e.g., influenza or strep pharyngitis).

**IF POSITIVE:** Student 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 the 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. [5] FOLLOW STEPS UNDER: “Protocol: Student/staff tests positive for COVID-19.”

**IF NO SYMPTOMS:**
If the evaluation shows the student does not have symptoms, send the student to class.

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