Updated 11-5-2020

Protocol: Student is symptomatic at school

Although families are the most important first line of defense for monitoring symptoms, teachers will play an important role in referring possible symptomatic students to the school nurse or other medical point of contact. (Note: This will require training for teachers.)

Teacher ensures the student is wearing a mask that fully covers nose and mouth at all times.

Teacher calls the nurse or school medical point of contact to inform them that they have a possible case. Nurse or school medical point of contact comes to get the student from class.

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.

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 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 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 or staff tests positive for COVID-19.”

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

Revised 9-14-2020