



# REOPENING DENNIS-YARMOUTH SCHOOLS

*RE-IMAGINING THE DY ADVANTAGE*  
*FALL 2020*

*EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND A  
PLACE FOR ALL*



*A CULTURE OF  
EXCELLENCE*



*RIGOR, RELEVANCE, AND RELATIONSHIPS*

Respectfully Submitted by  
Carol A. Woodbury  
Superintendent of Schools  
August 2020

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

(To be inserted with summary of results of the August 6, 2020 school committee meeting.)

# LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear School Committee Members and the Dennis-Yarmouth Community,

It is my pleasure to present the final draft of the Reopening Plan for the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District for 2020-2021. I have appreciated your support throughout the pandemic as we worked to stay abreast of the ever changing landscape and the enormous amounts of guidance we received from the Governor, Commissioner of Education, and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

The phrase of the year will likely be “the new normal.” We all have felt the impact of uncertainty and fear since our schools closed on March 13, 2020. We were instantly thrown into the unknown and were initially unprepared to deal with this “new normal.” However, human beings are generally resilient, inventive, and able to persevere even during troubled times. We have witnessed many acts of compassion toward our fellow humans and are reminded daily of our true need and desire to work together for the common good. For most of us, when the opportunity presents itself to be together we are reminded about how much we need one another.

The unknowns about the Coronavirus that has led us to this point make it difficult for everyone. As I stated at a School Committee meeting earlier this summer, many have experienced significant trauma with the loss of jobs, the loss of loved ones, food and housing insecurity, concerns about keeping our loved ones healthy, and staying healthy ourselves.

As we navigate our “new normal”, we are following the guidance and mandates received from the Commissioner of Education who is listening to infectious disease physicians, pediatricians, and other public health experts from the Massachusetts General Brigham Health System, the Massachusetts COVID-19 Command Center’s Medical Advisory Board, and the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. The [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) strongly support that “all policy considerations for the coming school year **should start with a goal of having students physically present at school.**” Dr. Fisher, President of the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and Dr. Nelson, Infectious Disease Specialist at Massachusetts General Hospital, have shared their views on school reopening in a short [video](#). The CDC has also issued a statement on the [importance of reopening schools](#), specifically stating, “*Aside from a child’s home, no other setting has more influence on a child’s health and well-being than their school.*”

While we cannot declare victory at this time, the trends for both Massachusetts and the Cape remain positive. We recently heard of a number of new cases on the outer Cape after a group of restaurant workers attended a party and did not follow physical distancing guidelines. **The same will not be true of those who wish to return to school. All will follow physical distancing guidelines.** Currently, we are managing during the height of our tourist season which will be mostly over when our children and staff return to school.

Up to this point Barnstable County has fared quite well given our high risk population. As of July 31,

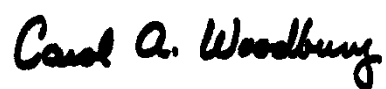
2020 Barnstable County reported 1,745 total cases with 156 deaths. You can see the numbers by following this link [Barnstable County COVID-19 Statistics](#). Everyone is paying close attention to the local metrics to ensure that we can return safely to school. From January 1, 2020-July 29, 2020 the rate per 100,000 in Dennis is 1.42% and in Yarmouth is 1.05%. The state rate per 100,000 during the same period is 1.74%. Both towns are below the state rate. There have been 97 cases in Dennis and 122 cases in Yarmouth. This information comes from the weekly report published by [Massachusetts Department of Public Health](#). These metrics are very good especially when you consider that Cape Cod is home to a very vulnerable population. In Yarmouth 46.5% and in Dennis 53.9% of population is 55 or older. It demonstrates that our year round Cape Cod population of almost 213,000 took the pandemic seriously and made great efforts to follow CDC, MDPH, and local Board of Health guidelines. Therefore, if we heed the guidelines on opening our schools, students and staff will be able to safely return.

In-person learning is an essential service as outlined in the DESE guidance. While many documents that have been received were called guidance documents, there are significant requirements that schools must follow. These include appropriate physical distancing, wearing masks, and handwashing and/or hand sanitizing frequently. Families can help us keep schools open by practicing these habits at home and most importantly ensuring their child is healthy every day that they send them to school. We need everyone to do their part to ensure our staff and students remain healthy.

Massachusetts school districts have been charged with developing three different scenarios to assist us in being as responsive as possible to our communities, families, and the possibility of changing public health metrics. When the public health metrics are positive, as they are now, we would recommend ***in-person learning*** for as many students as possible with the commitment to all health requirements/standards while students and staff are present. When we are not able to meet the health requirements/standards with all children in school, then we need to consider a ***hybrid learning*** model, where groups of students alternate between in-person and remote learning. ***Remote learning*** generally would take place when there is a need for more widespread closures of schools, as an option for some students who are unable to return to school, or in the case that a parent wishes to keep a student at home. The DESE guidance states that “parents and caregivers can choose to send their children to in-person school or keep them at home learning remotely.” The requirement to plan for all three options allows us to flexibly provide educational services that align with current public health data for our area. We will be prepared to adjust quickly to changing health data.

I look forward to discussing our reopening plan with you as we work together in the best interest of ALL students of the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol A. Woodbury". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carol A. Woodbury

# VISION, MISSION, VALUES, AND EQUITY

## VISION

The Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District, a community of learners, will be an innovative leader in supporting the aspirations of all students for college, career, and civic readiness so that they can be active and engaged members of society, continually seeking new challenges and ways to make a positive difference.

## MISSION

The mission of the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District is to empower each student to achieve excellence with integrity in a changing world.

## CORE VALUES

-  Empower
-  Inspire
-  Motivate
-  Collaborate
-  Nurture
-  Respect
-  Contribute
-  Embrace
-  Partner

## EQUITY

Our diversity is our strength. The adults and students of the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District are not all the same. Each person comes with a different background, personal history, and culture. We care for one another and value points of view that may be different from our own. We realize, that as in the words of Helen Keller, “Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much.” We endeavor to be an inclusive community that acknowledges and value our differences. All are welcome here!



## 2020-2021 COMMITMENT TO ACTION

### ***We believe....***

- If we involve a wide range of stakeholders including administrators, teachers, health professionals, families, community members and staff in the planning process;
- If we follow the guidelines provided by CDC, state and local Boards of Health, and the Commissioner of Education;
- If we focus on student and staff safety;
- If we allocate appropriate resources of time, talent, and funds when developing new protocols;
- If we are flexible and creative in our development of a plan, understanding that adjustments will be made based on community health needs;
- If we recognize, honor, and support the social emotional needs of children and families while providing consistent and high-value teaching and learning opportunities;

***Then we will provide safe and supportive, in-person instruction for as many students as possible.***

# 2020-2021 COMMITMENT TO ACTION

We are grateful to the fifty-eight (58) members of the Superintendent's Advisory Task Force for their participation, input, and thoughtful conversation at meetings. They provided many insights into the thinking of parents, educators, and other staff members about the development of the three reopening plans for the district and our schools. We held six (6) meetings of two plus hours each. The items below were topics/agenda items from our meetings.

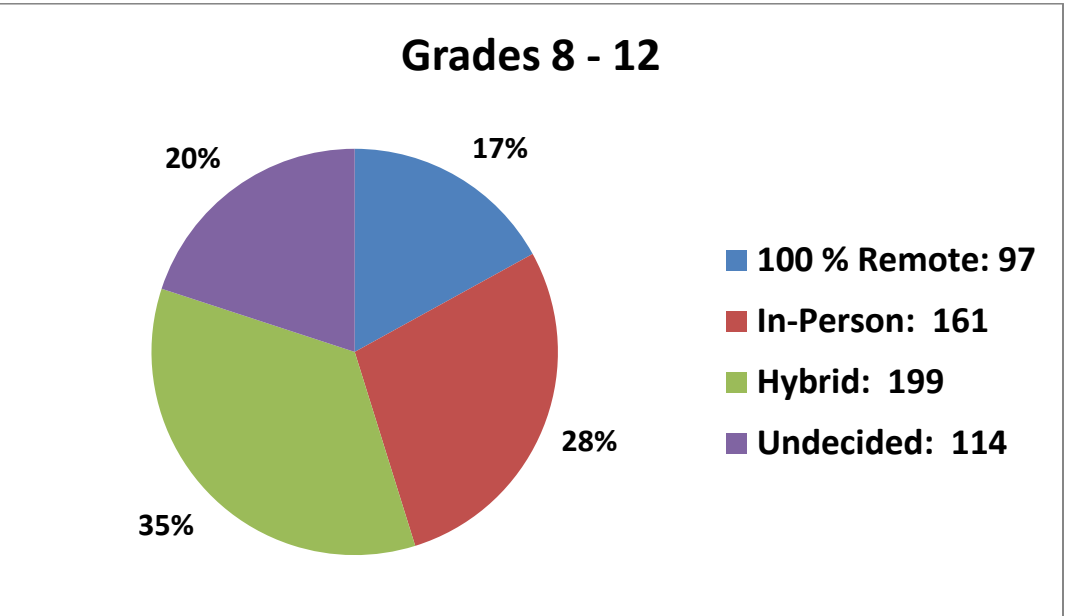
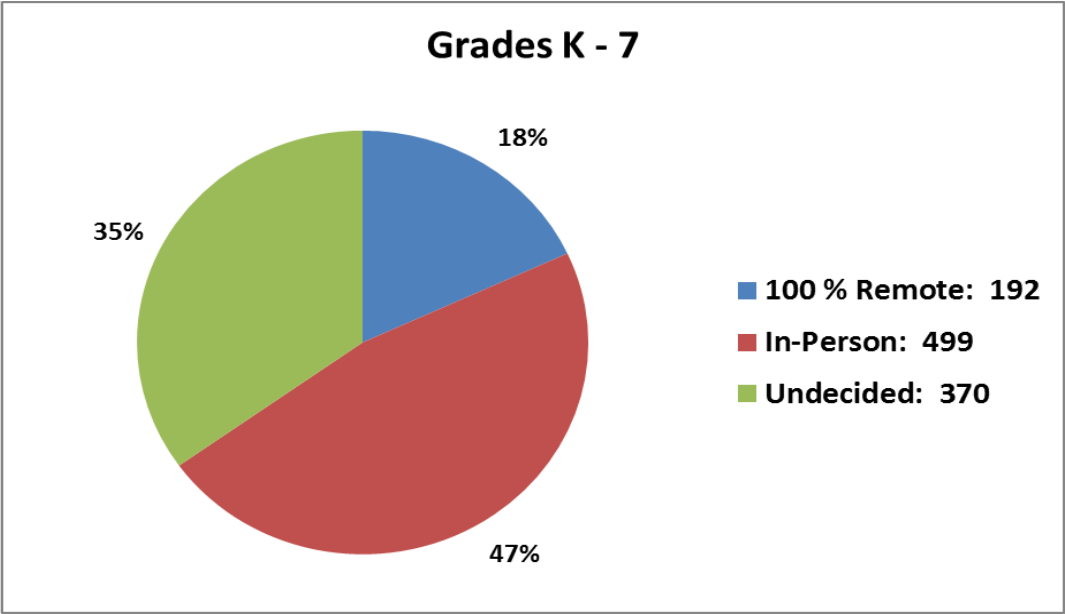
## **The Plan: Reimagining the DY Advantage**

### **Target Areas for Planning and Discussion**

- i. Physical Operations**
  - 1. School Meals**
  - 2. Transportation**
  - 3. Physical Layout of Furniture-6 foot distancing**
- ii. School Safety Operations**
  - 1. Public Health Accommodations**
  - 2. Arrival-Dismissal-Passing Procedures**
  - 3. Protocols for Recess**
  - 4. Procedures for Visitors & Meetings**
- iii. Whole Child**
  - 1. Social Emotional Learning**
  - 2. Mental Health Supports**
  - 3. Transitioning Back to School**
  - 4. Creating Safe and Supportive Schools and Classrooms**
- iv. School Personnel**
  - 1. Staff Responsibilities**
  - 2. Accommodations for those with Compromised Health**
  - 3. Professional Development and Support**
- v. Academics**
  - 1. Curriculum and Specials**
  - 2. Schedules and Learning Time**
  - 3. Continuity of Learning in the Event of a School Closure**
  - 4. Academic Screening of Students**
  - 5. Addressing Learning Gaps**
  - 6. Students with Disabilities**
  - 7. English Learners**
- vi. Communication**
  - 1. District Plan**
  - 2. School Plans**
  - 3. Connectivity during Remote Learning**

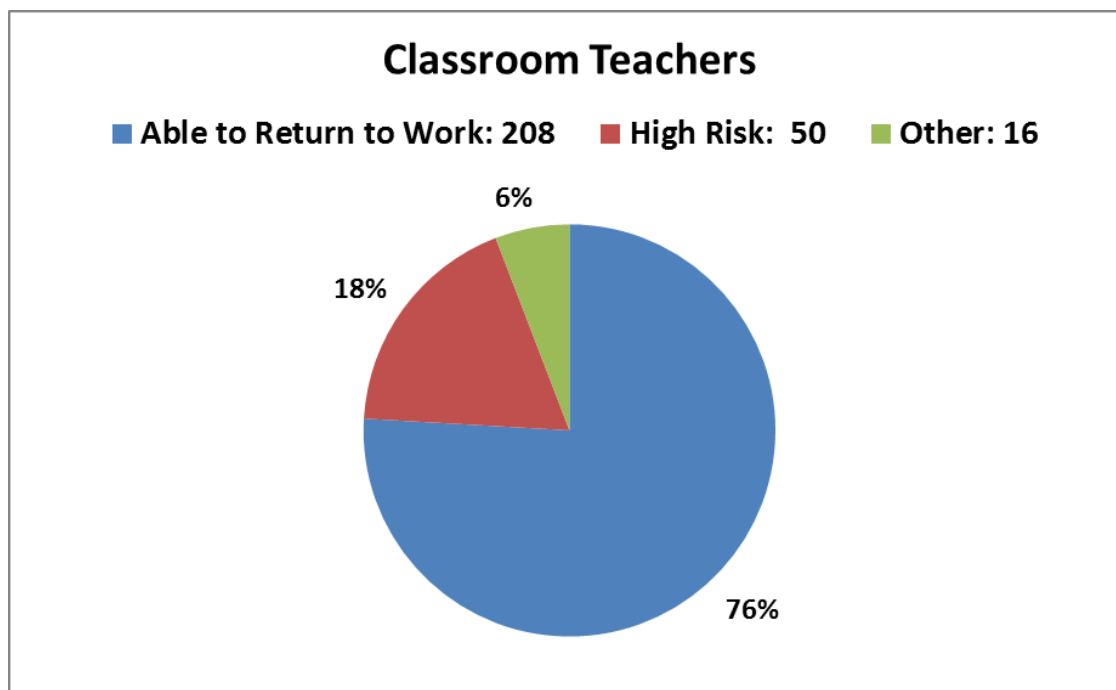
# SURVEY RESULTS

## STUDENTS





## STAFF



## CRITICAL HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS





In order to reopen Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District for in-person learning all schools will comply with the requirements and recommendations contained in the DESE *Fall Reopening Facilities and Operations Guidance, July 22, 2020*.

🦋 **Masks:** Masks are a critical tool in limiting transmission of the Covid-19 virus. The DYRSD requires all students, staff, visitors, and vendors to wear masks that cover the nose and mouth on school grounds and in school buildings. Exceptions are made for meals, mask breaks, and medical exemptions.

🦋 **Handwashing and hand sanitizing:** Good hand hygiene is another important tool in preventing or mitigating transmission of the Covid-19 virus. The DYRSD will promote handwashing throughout the school day, and will provide sanitizer for all classrooms and offices and will use sanitizer stations in commonly used areas, such as building entrances and exits, auditoriums, cafeterias, and gym.

🦋 **Isolation Room:** Our district nurse will work with each school nurse and Principal to identify an appropriate location for an isolation room in each school to be used if a student appears to have COVID-19 symptoms. Staff and children with COVID-19 symptoms (including, but not limited to, difficulty breathing or shortness of breath,

fever, coughing, new loss of taste or smell) at school will be immediately separated from other students and staff. Students with these symptoms will be assessed by the school nurse in consultation with the district's lead nurse and will be assigned to the school's identified isolation area. Parents will be notified and if appropriate, the student will be sent home or directed to go to a doctor or healthcare facility, based upon the severity of the symptoms. Adults who becomes sick at school will be assessed and action taken, depending on the symptoms. Each school will have an identified isolation room or area to limit contact between potentially infected individuals and others. A detailed explanation identifying the actions taken to address individual situations at school, on buses, in a variety of circumstances and settings is contained in Appendix A: *Protocols for responding to COVID-19 scenarios in school, on the bus, or in community settings July 17, 2020*

-  **Physical distancing:** Physical distancing is a critical component in mitigating the transmission of the virus. The DYRSD is committed to maintaining a physical distance of a minimum of 6 feet in classes, during activities, during mask breaks, and during meals. Physical barriers may be used in cafeterias and in specific classroom situations when a 6 foot distance is not possible as called for in individual plan services.
-  **Creating cohorts:** The District will use cohorts (e.g. self-contained groups) of students wherever possible and limit the interaction between cohorts in order to limit the transmission of the virus between groups of students as well as to enable effective contact tracing. DYRSD examples of cohorts include an elementary school class, students on a bus, or groups of high school students with similar schedules. The District will use cohorts to the extent feasible for classes, mask breaks, transportation, meals, recess, and co-curriculars.
-  **Assigned Seats:** The District will use assigned seats on buses and in classrooms as part of mitigation efforts and to promote effective contact tracing.
-  **Movement protocols within facilities:** Each school in the DYRSD will develop clear movement protocols with posted traffic flow patterns to avoid crowding, maintain cohorts, and minimize unnecessary person-to-person interactions. These protocols will include a plan for arrival and dismissal times, transitions between classes, and bathroom breaks, as well as outlining one-way movement pathways for hallways and cafeterias. Individual school buildings will implement and post procedures (aligned with District procedures) for the specific school in regards to entry points, pick up and drop off procedures; recess, eating and any required procedures for specialized building specific programs.

*See sample classroom pictures below.*



## PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

The DYRSD has purchased PPE for our students and our employees in the 2020-2021 school year. As federal and state guidance continues to evolve and funding becomes available, we will continue to purchase recommended products, including PPE.

## PPE PURCHASED FOR STAFF, STUDENTS, AND CLASSROOMS

- 🦺 Face masks for adults and students
- 🦺 Face shields
- 🦺 Vinyl gloves
- 🦺 Nitrile Gloves for Specialized Programs
- 🦺 Isolation gowns
- 🦺 Non-touch Thermometers
- 🦺 Hand Sanitizer for classrooms and offices
- 🦺 Hand Sanitizer Stations (on order)
- 🦺 Soft Soap with dispensers for classrooms/bathrooms
- 🦺 Sanitizing Wipes

 **Bru-Tab Surface Cleaner**

 **Force of Nature Cleaner**

## **PPE PURCHASED FOR CUSTODIAL CLEANING/SANITIZING**

 **Handheld electrostatic sprayers (8)**

 **Disinfecting wipes**

 **Disinfecting spray**

## **FACILITY CLEANING AND DISINFECTING PROTOCOLS**

The DYRSD District is committed to the recommended practices outlined in the CDC: Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting (Updated July 22, 2020). The DYRSD maintenance crew and the District's cleaning service vendor, Partner Solutions, are complying with all CDC and state guidance for cleaning and disinfecting. All schools will be cleaned and disinfected daily using EPA and FDA approved products and using industry-standard COVID-19 cleaning procedures. In addition to this, each school will receive a deep sanitization process at least once a week.

**Standard Cleaning Routines:** Cleaning crews and/or custodians have a daily routine including wiping down tables, chairs and other surfaces, emptying trash, cleaning restrooms, vacuuming, and cleaning floors. These practices will happen with greater frequency this year. Additionally, the District will employ specialized cleaning in response to the pandemic.

**Covid-19 Special Cleaning Practices:** Each school and district offices will have all touchpoints disinfected at least once each day in addition to frequent daily cleaning of door handles, push bars, etc. The special weekly disinfecting process will continue throughout the school year. All custodians and cleaning crew members have been trained on the use of the electro-static sprayers which are deployed to provide supplemental support for schools and facilities. All cleaning and custodial personnel will receive refresher and update training throughout the year. Checklists will be used and maintained in building offices documenting the cleaning and disinfecting routines.

**Specialized Cleaning Products:** All products used for cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing are EPA approved products. Special cleaning solutions designed to limit germ transfer will be applied by trained staff to disinfect all touchpoints and surfaces in occupied areas of the schools. To ensure the safety of students and staff, the specialized solutions are applied by trained staff when classrooms and other spaces are not occupied.






**Hand Sanitizers:** All offices and classrooms will have hand sanitizer for student and staff use. The District is purchasing and installing wall-mounted and free-standing hand sanitizing stations for all large spaces and building entry points.

## HVAC SYSTEMS AND AIR CIRCULATION

The DYRSD's six school buildings and the Central Office have standard HVAC systems that vary in age and design depending on when the schools were originally built. The Facilities Department, working with a dedicated ENE technician, maintains and monitors the HVAC systems using an energy management system to provide proper air circulation to all spaces.

The District's 520 HVAC air filters are changed as part of the District's preventative maintenance plan and there will be new filters throughout the system for September. The cooling and heating coil surfaces are cleaned and disinfected using approved chemicals and methodology. DYRSD has taken prudent and reasonable measures to maintain appropriate air quality in our buildings and we will continue the standard practices in the preventative maintenance plan, coupled with any additional practical measures to improve the air quality and heating system, to provide safe and comfortable conditions in classrooms.

### HVAC SYSTEMS AND AIR CIRCULATION ACTION STEPS:

-  The Director of Facilities will continue to consistently communicate and coordinate actions with the ENE (the largest independent HVAC specialist company in New England) technician to ensure appropriate air circulation in the schools, with a particular focus on monitoring air flow and air exchange rates inside the schools.
-  HVAC preventative maintenance will be conducted as prescribed by recognized industry standards and preventative maintenance procedures used in the District.
-  Maintenance and inspection records will continue to be maintained and reviewed (using the work order system) to document steps taken to ensure appropriate air flow.
-  The District will continue to replace air filters as part of the preventative maintenance plan, and where necessary, upgrade filters.
-  In buildings with windows that open, staff will open windows, and report windows that need repair, for regular air flow during the day and early evening, consistent with security procedures.

## FOOD SERVICE OPERATIONS

As expected, the DYRSD will comply with all federal, state and local requirements regarding food service operations in schools. The DYRSD Food Services team has provided over 300,000 meals since our schools closed in March while complying with all distancing rules, contact control rules and safe food service rules established by local health departments. We are confident this team will be able to adapt and adjust to any of the three potential reopening plans that are being considered while still providing breakfast and lunch for all of our students. At present, a specific model has not been adopted; however, a grab and go breakfast model using kiosks near school entry points will be used while the specifics of lunch will be finalized in the next two weeks. It is anticipated that breakfast and lunches will be eaten in classrooms, cafeterias, large open areas, and outside, weather permitting. At all times, appropriate distancing will be maintained and all requirements for food surface cleaning, including appropriate dwell times for disinfectants, will be followed wherever students and staff eat. As expected, all Food Service areas will be cleaned and disinfected in compliance with CDC and DESE guidance.

## BUS TRANSPORTATION

The DYRSD transportation plans will comply with the DESE Fall Reopening Transportation Guidance, July 22, 2020. The District is following the 6 foot physical distancing recommendation in all situations. Most of the buses used by Five Star, the District's transportation vendor, are 71 seat capacity buses which can transport 23 students and an assistant under current guidelines. Using a three-tier bus system, the District is developing routes that would effectively support in-person learning, based on parent responses to the late July survey regarding the number of families committed to in-person learning and a significant number of parents opting to drop off and pick up their students and not use bus service. The District uses a three-tier bus system for pick-ups and end of day drop-offs.

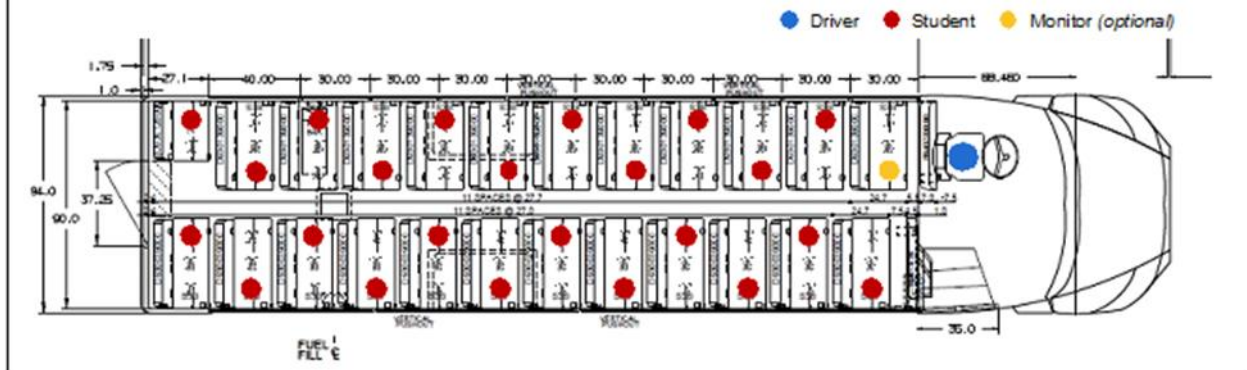
The lift capacity of the vendor's 32 seventy-one passenger buses, using the 23 student passenger model, is 736 students (see graphic below). While it may be possible to add one additional bus (driver availability and costs), bus ride times and school start times may need to be adjusted in order to transport all those who need bus transportation to schools while maintaining all required distancing measures. High contact surfaces will be cleaned between runs and all buses will be disinfected daily.



**Bus Model:** 71-passenger bus

**Max. capacity with physical distancing requirements:** 23 passengers (32% full capacity)

**Seat map configuration:**



## BUS RIDER REQUIREMENTS

All students and adults must wear masks and maintain appropriate physical distancing. There will be one student per seat; siblings may sit two to a seat. Bus cohorts will be implemented and all students will have assigned seats. Schools will develop disembarking procedures for morning drop off and boarding procedures for afternoon dismissal to ensure physical distancing is maintained and required health and safety procedures are followed.

## TECHNOLOGY

Technology played an integral role in the remote learning which occurred last spring. Students in grades 6-12 already had access to their iPads so the focus shifted to purchasing power cords and blocks for the iPads in grades 3-5 and creating an organized and systematic method to deliver those iPad to families in a safe manner. Families in grades K-2 who otherwise had no device at home were also provided with iPads so students could participate in the Dolphin Learning Plan and engage in their daily learning experiences. In addition to the hardware, technology support was provided to families, students, and staff with a regularly updated video library.

In preparation for the upcoming school year, iPads, covers, and licenses have been purchased for all students in grades PreK-2. This will be the first year that all student s, PreK-12, will have 1:1 iPads for instructional purposes. In order to support the increased use of technology, new fiber optic internet connections for MMS, EHBI, and NHW have been ordered and will provide the additional capacity required for live streaming.

## **FAMILY SUPPORTS**

When the school day ended on Friday, March 13, 2020, no one expected that to be the last day of the school year. Parents, teachers, students, and administrators were all unprepared for the new landscape of remote learning. While some referred to it as “home schooling”, that would have implied a choice on the part of a family for how they wanted to educate their child. What we experienced last spring was much more like “crisis schooling” where everyone was unprepared for what was happening and having to simultaneously deal with an unprecedented global pandemic. Over the course of last spring, parent and teachers learned many new technologies and strategies and have had an opportunity to reflect on that learning. By thoughtfully deploying some of the strategies and refining communication platforms, everyone involved will be more equipped to navigate this “new normal” in education going forward. The district will make a library of instructional videos and manuals for the various platforms used to communicate student expectations and progress for families.

## **SOCIAL EMOTIONAL SUPPORTS & PARENTS AS PARTNERS**

By the time we return to school our students will have been away from school for six months. For everyone except our Preschool and Kindergarten students that is a very long time. We know that we are going to have to help our students re-acclimate to the routines of school. They may go through periods of missing parents/caregivers. Whatever, they are feeling our schools are equipped to support our students and time will be spent at the beginning of the year to help them become reacquainted with school routines and routines that may be a little different than when they left school last March. We want to reassure you that our educators and support professionals are highly skilled in working with the developmental needs of all their students. We will have our social workers and school psychologists available to provide assistance as needed.

We know we will have to teach new routines. The belief that is the underpinning of our PBIS system is that if our students could do what we are asking them to do then they would. So if they are not doing what we expect we need to teach them. This has worked very successfully throughout the district. So our PBIS team is working to develop ways to teach our students new routines for the new normal. In our small summer care program and our summer ESY programs we have witnessed how quickly children adapt and work successfully within the new expectations they have been taught.

We look forward to our continued partnership with families to help prepare your child/children for a safe return. We ask that you talk about and practice wearing masks and

handwashing as these are two major efforts that will stop the spread of COVID-19. Below you will find a few links to online resources that may be helpful.

<https://www.connecticutchildrens.org/coronavirus/mask-up-tips-to-make-kids-more-comfortable-with-masks-broken-down-by-age/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OLO1GNXKmNE>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lnP-uMn6q\\_U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lnP-uMn6q_U)

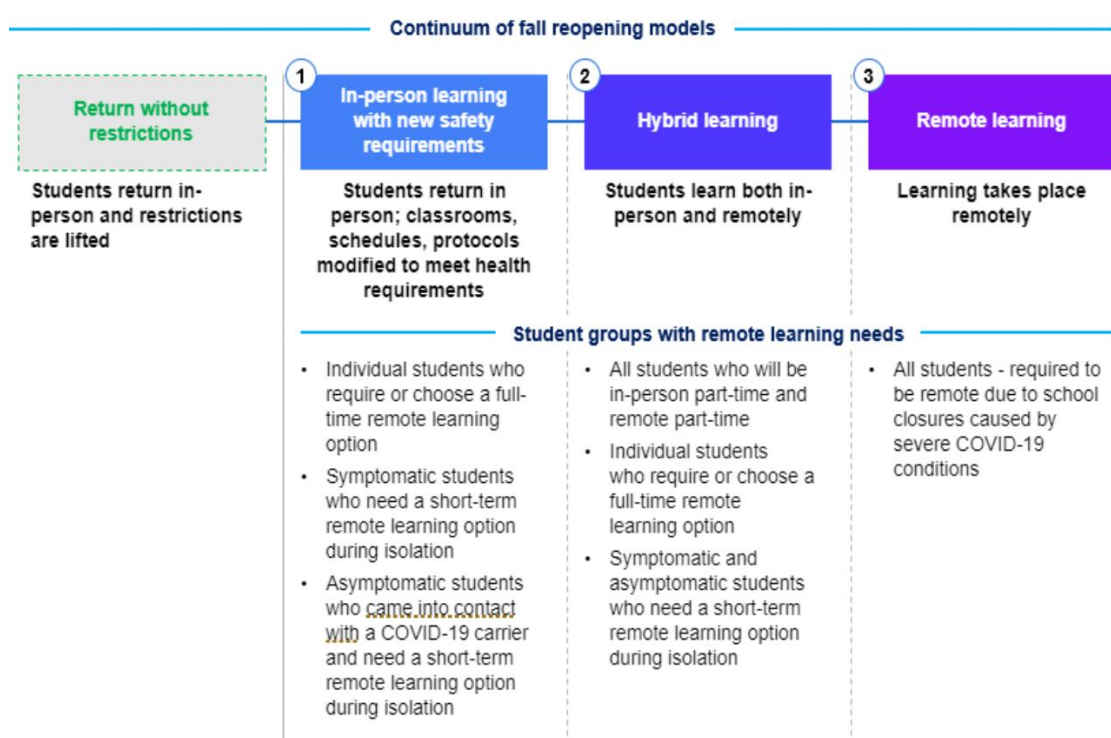
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fPrYN0C3Kvw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FvTZv31eRp0>

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

As part of the district's comprehensive plan to ensure that all staff are prepared to meet the needs of their students in any of the three learning plans, we are creating a professional development plan for the first ten days prior to the arrival of students in September. It is paramount that we ensure staff are properly trained in all healthy and safety procedures. Similarly, in order to ensure the effectiveness of the safety protocols put in place, we must clearly outline the expectations and teach them to our students. The Dolphin Way teams at each school have been working to create lesson plans for teachers on topics such as how to appropriately wear a mask, attend a Zoom meeting, safe physical distancing, and proper hand hygiene. There will also be professional learning opportunities for teachers to hone their technology skills on the communication platform for their grade level and the tools in place used to deliver instruction and assess student performance in all three of the learning plans. Additionally, there will be continued content development with time for teachers to collaborate and plan for effective instruction of all students.

# DESE REQUIRED REOPENING PLANS



## IN PERSON MODEL

This is the model for K-7 schools. Class-sizes were reduced to accommodate the 6 ft. social distancing recommendations; the range of class sizes is from 8-16 students, depending on the square footage of the space. Rooms have been assigned based on class size and need rather than teacher room assignment; therefore additional spaces such as the library, gym, and computer labs have been utilized. The same group of students will remain in their classroom for core content instruction and most of their related services, such as art, music, and health in order to minimize movement throughout the building. Whenever possible and appropriate for the lesson objective(s), teachers will be encouraged to take students outside for classroom instruction. Proper health and safety precautions will be implemented for all staff and students, including masks/face coverings and face shields for all staff and students in grades PK-12. PreK students will be served in a hybrid model.

## HYBRID MODEL

The high school will implement a hybrid learning model in order to adhere to the 6 foot social distancing requirement. Two distinct cohorts of students will be identified and attend school on an alternating day schedule. Classes will be five periods per day of seventy (70) minutes each in person. All classes will be semester based except, in grade 8 math, ELA, and science

will be full year courses. In grade 9 ELA and algebra will be full year courses. On the days that they do not attend in person, they will participate in remote learning.

We will have a remote learning coordinator and a team of teachers to monitor the remote learning for those who stay home. Projects and homework will be assigned for the remote day. We are exploring streaming classes on the remote day, but haven't come up with a plan that can be executed yet. They would eat lunch at 12:00 and leave school at 12:30 to ensure everyone has lunch. The teachers will get their duty-free lunch at the same time and will spend the rest of the work day working with students who remote in the morning. We were using Zoom in the spring and have purchased a district license, so that will be the main tool for the afternoon work. We are 1:1 with iPads that all grade 8-12 students are issued. We had a few problems with WiFi in the spring, but are working on those with local vendors.

Students identified with significant needs (SPED, English Language Learners, students who struggled with remote learning in the spring) will participate in an in-person remote learning plan which will be held in a designated area in the building daily. We would rely on parents to sign them up for that option. Those students will attend school every day that school is in session. At the high school we may need an additional science teacher and an English teacher to ensure we can offer the in-person remote and to have it staffed with certified staff members.

Our preschool students will be split into two cohorts. Cohort A is in person Monday and Tuesday mornings and Thursday and Friday afternoons. Cohort B is the reverse. Wednesday is reserved for IEP meetings, screenings, unique service delivery, and teacher prep.

## REMOTE MODEL

For students who are unable to return to in-person learning, whose parents choose remote learning, or in the event that we are closed due to a school closure caused by severe COVID-19 conditions, the District will provide instruction to those students that is aligned with the same high-quality content and instruction as the in-person model.

Teachers will utilize learning management systems such as Seesaw (grades PreK-2) and Google Classroom (grades 3-12) in order to effectively and consistently communicate and engage with all learners. We are developing training videos that will be available on our website for families and some opportunities for live training on Zoom. We are careful about how much screen time our young children get, but will teach Prek-2 students how to use iPads if they are part of the in-person model in case we need to go remote.

Students who are participating in remote learning will have synchronous and asynchronous learning, activities, and assignments throughout each day. Participation in the lessons and assignments will be required. These types of activities will vary by grade level and content area, but may include read-alouds, previewing content or concepts, small group lessons, lab demonstrations, collaborative group work, and other experiences. There will also be opportunities for students and teachers to connect and engage on a social-emotional level, with developmentally appropriate “Morning Meetings” or “Advisories”. Maintaining student engagement and connections with students is the key to successful remote learning.

## **SUPPORTING VULNERABLE STUDENT POPULATIONS**

Students with special needs and English Language Learners will be grouped accordingly so that the appropriately licensed staff can provide them with the required services based on their identified needs. In our high school hybrid model, these identified students will be accommodated so that they would be able to attend school on a daily basis. For inclusion students who attend in-person we are creating small class sizes that will be co-taught by one teacher with a general education license and a teacher with a special education license. We are currently running both in-person and remote services for ESY. Parent choice was the driver for which summer option students participated in. It has been very successful. We are providing all therapies in both options. We will continue with our SPED PAC this fall to ensure we have the parent voice at the table. We have several parents of students with special education needs on our Reopening Task Force. We have been holding IEP meetings remotely throughout the spring and summer.

We will be running a two-week summer boost program in August for our EL students. The district has created an English Language After School Boost program for students in grades K-12 who have been identified as not meeting the benchmarks for acquiring English proficiency as set by DESE and who struggled during remote learning last spring.

All of our communications through our mass communication system are translated into four additional languages to meet the needs of our families. We have a parent of one of our EL students on our re-opening taskforce to ensure the parent voice is heard. We will continue with our EL PAC (Parent Advisory Council) via Zoom in the fall to ensure participation. Families should contact Meaghan McDonnell, the English Language Education Coordinator, via email @ [mcdonnem@dy-regional.k12.ma.us](mailto:mcdonnem@dy-regional.k12.ma.us) with any questions.



# ATTENDANCE AND GRADING

## ATTENDANCE

During the time of school closures due to COVID-19 in the 2019-2020 school-year, state officials lifted the attendance mandates on students. DESE is only considered attendance through March 2 and disregarded the attendance data for the remainder of the year. However, this did not mean that we were not concerned for each student who did not participate in remote learning. Each school documented students who were not engaged and made every effort to try to connect with those students and families.

In the 2020-2021 school -year, all of our schools will be required to take attendance. Using the in-person model, attendance will primarily follow our procedures that were in place prior to COVID-19, barring any new guidelines put forth by DESE. Procedures for taking attendance while a student is engaged in either the hybrid or remote model will be developed and communicated to teachers and families. Absences must be reported for all students. Each school will investigate absences and document the efforts made to locate the student and determine the reason for nonattendance. The schools will work with families to remove the barriers for attendance where possible. We look forward to additional guidance from DESE on attendance requirements.

## GRADING









Grading student work is how teachers have traditionally communicated information with students and their families about their learning progress and achievement. Last spring, the Commissioner advised districts that work should not be graded but teachers were encouraged to provide feedback when student work was shared. All courses were graded “credit/no credit”. This proved to be very challenging for students, families, and teachers, creating issues regarding engagement and accountability.

The current guidance from the Commissioner issued in July, 2020 states that districts must assess all students consistently across in-person, hybrid, and remote learning environments using the same consistent performance criteria.


# SCHOOL-BASED OPERATIONS

Individual school buildings will develop and post procedures (aligned with District procedures) for the specific school in regards to entry points, pick up and drop off procedures; recess, eating and any required procedures for specialized building specific programs. The DYRSD will comply with the requirements and recommendations contained in the DESE *Fall Reopening Facilities and Operations Guidance, July 22, 2020 as quoted below:*





## ARRIVAL TO SCHOOL

-  Prioritize overall safety considerations, (e.g. child welfare, preventing intruders and weapons) in planning school arrival/exit.
-  As practical, consider assigning multiple entry points or staggering arrival times to avoid crowding in entry areas.
-  Post appropriate signage and reminders about the health and safety requirements that everyone needs to follow.
-  Ensure hand washing or sanitization is available upon entry, as well as appropriate disposal containers.
-  Ensure that all students, staff, and visitors, with noted exceptions for medical needs, are wearing masks covering their nose and mouth.
-  Ensure that additional masks are available at the entry as may be necessary.
-  Consider having staff monitor entry to ensure everyone properly disinfects their hands and is wearing masks.
-  While there are no screening procedures required at the point of entry, school staff should observe students throughout the day and refer students who may be symptomatic to the school healthcare point of contact.

## DISMISSAL FROM SCHOOL





-  Consider designating multiple exit points, staggering dismissal times, and monitoring handwashing or hand sanitization upon exit. Before students are dismissed, confirm they have gathered all personal belongings before leaving, especially those that require cleaning at home. Additional details on pick-up and drop-off protocols can be found in the Transportation Guidance.

## RECESS





-  **Hand hygiene:** Hand washing facilities or hand sanitizer needs to be used upon entering and leaving recess space.
-  **Cohorting:** Consider designating outdoor spaces to separate cohorts and support physical distancing while still providing recess opportunities.
-  **Cleaning and disinfecting:** When possible, clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces made of plastic or metal between cohort use.
-  **Masking:** If students are outdoors and maintain a distance of at least 6 feet, consider using recess as an unmasked time. Otherwise, monitor for adherence to masking requirements and at least 3 feet of distancing.

## OTHER SCHOOL-BASED PROCEDURES

Other school-based procedures will be developed at the school level by the Principal and will be reviewed by the Superintendent for compliance with state guidance. Other areas should include the following as applicable (this is not an exhaustive list):

-  Mask breaks
-  Staff Absences
-  Related Arts: Art, music, physical education
-  Collection of medical documentation and family contact information

## TO BE DETERMINED –AS WE AWAIT FURTHER GUIDANCE

-  Fall sports
-  Clubs and Activities
-  After School Programs
-  Before/After School Care

## 2020-2021 DISTRICT ACADEMIC CALENDAR

The Commissioner of Education agreed to a 170-day school year for students with all educator unions in the state to give districts and teachers greater opportunity to prepare for all the

necessary changes in the upcoming school year before students arrive. This time will be utilized for all necessary professional development and other possible needs such as student orientation days for students who will transition to a new school this year in Kindergarten, grade 4, grade 6, and grade 8.

# APPENDIX A: 2020-2021 SCHOOL CALENDAR

## DENNIS-YARMOUTH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 2020-2021 School Calendar

REVISED

August							September (11 days)							October (21 days)						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1			1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
30	31																			
November (16 days)							December (17 days)							January (19 days)						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5						1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
														31						
February (15 days)							March (23 days)							April (16 days)						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	7	8		10		12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
28							28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	
May (20 days)							June (17 days)							First and last days of school Holiday/Vacation - no school Tea. Prof. Day - no school 1/2 day of sch. - students						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S							
						1			1	2	3	4	5							
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12							
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19							
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26							
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30										
30	31																			

8/25-9/15	*Teacher Professional Days - No School	Administration Office	508-398-7600
8/28,31,9/4	*Non-Work Days	E. H. Baker Innovation School	508-398-7690
9/7/20	Labor Day	D-Y Regional High School	508-398-7630
9/16/20	1st Student Day/1st Kindergarten Day	Mattacheese Middle School	508-778-7979
10/12/20	Columbus Day	M. E. Small Elementary School	508-778-7975
11/3/20	All Cape Professional Day - No School	Station Avenue Elementary School	508-760-5600
11/11/20	Veterans' Day - Observance	Nathaniel H. Wixon School	508-398-7695
11/25-11/27	Thanksgiving Break	Early Learning	508-778-7988
12/24-1/1	Christmas Day - Holiday Vacation	District Website: <a href="http://www.dy-regional.k12.ma.us">www.dy-regional.k12.ma.us</a>	
1/4/21	School Resumes		
1/18/21	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day		
2/15-2/19	Presidents' Day - Winter Vacation		
4/1/21	Kindergarten Registration		
4/2/21	Good Friday		
4/19-4/23	Patriots' Day - Spring Vacation		
5/31/21	Memorial Day		
6/12/21	D-YRHS Graduation		
6/23/21	Last day including 5 snow days		

# APPENDIX B: PROTOCOLS FOR RESPONDING TO COVID-19 SCENARIOS

## Protocols for responding to COVID-19 scenarios in school, on the bus, or in community settings

July 17, 2020

### Introduction and overview

As a supplement to DESE's Initial Fall School Reopening Guidance, we are providing districts and schools with additional information on protocols for responding to specific COVID-19 scenarios this fall. Protocols from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) related to this topic may be released in the coming weeks and this guidance may be updated accordingly. We will also be providing additional clarifying information through our FAQ process.

This guidance provides more information and protocols to answer the following questions:

- What should a district do if there is a symptomatic individual – at home, on the bus, or at school?
- What should a district do if someone in the school community tests positive for COVID-19 – be it a student, teacher, staff, or bus driver, or one of their household members or close contacts?
- Who should get tested for COVID-19 and when?
- In what circumstances would someone need to quarantine (when they have been exposed but are not sick) or isolate (when they are sick)?
- What should school districts do to monitor COVID-19 spread in their communities?

In our Initial Fall School Reopening Guidance, we put forth the goal of the safe return of as many students as possible to in-person learning. At the same time, we asked districts to plan for all contingencies by asking for three reopening models.

**A safe return to in-person school environments will require a culture of health and safety every step of the way.** Specifically:

- **It is not one mitigation strategy but a combination of all these strategies taken together that will substantially reduce the risk of transmission.** No single strategy can ever be perfect, but all strategies together will reduce risk. In addition, although we are currently in Phase 3 of Reopening Massachusetts, it will take collective continued vigilance towards health and safety measures to continue to contain COVID-19.
- **Staff must monitor themselves for symptoms daily and students, with the assistance of families, must also be monitored daily for symptoms. Staff and students must stay home if feeling unwell.** Everyone must do their part to protect others and not come to school if they are exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms or are feeling sick.
- **Masks are among the most important single measures to contain the spread of COVID-19.** We require students second grade and above and all staff to wear masks that adequately cover both their nose and mouth. Younger children are strongly encouraged to wear masks. Exceptions must be made



for students with medical, behavioral, or other challenges who are unable to wear masks/face coverings.

- **Hand hygiene is critical.** Students and staff are required to exercise hand hygiene (handwashing or sanitizing) upon arrival to school, before eating, before putting on and taking off masks, and before dismissal.
- **Physical distance greatly reduces the risk of transmission.** As COVID-19 is transmitted through respiratory droplets, putting distance between yourself and others reduces risk. In classroom settings, when all parties are wearing masks, a minimum of 3 feet of separation is needed; if one or both parties are not wearing masks, 6 feet is needed. (Kindergarten and first grade students without masks may be 3 feet apart, but no less, which is permissible given the lower susceptibility of the age group).
- **Cohorts/assigned seating.** Students organized in groups/classrooms and other cohorts help mitigate transmission of the virus. Assigned seating is important because it effectively creates even smaller groups within cohorts which minimize transmission. Assigned seats can also assist with contact tracing. Wherever possible, seats should be assigned (including classroom, bus, meals).

To support a culture of health and safety, **schools must have robust and reliable ways to communicate with all families, students, teachers, and staff** in order to send and receive key messages related to COVID-19.

### **Preparing to respond to COVID-19 scenarios**

Even as we remain vigilant, and public health metrics in Massachusetts remain positive, the risk of exposure to COVID-19 in school will not be zero. As we prepare to reopen schools, we must also prepare to respond to potential COVID-19 scenarios, whether in school, on the bus, or in our communities. Depending on the circumstances, a positive COVID-19 test, a potentially symptomatic student, or exposure to someone in the outside community who has COVID-19 can each have health, safety, and operational implications.

### **Be prepared to provide remote learning**

When students must stay home for quarantine or isolation, teaching and learning should not stop. It is the school's duty to provide remote learning for students who cannot be in school for any extended period of time.

### **Testing, tracing, and isolation**

It is important to note that testing, combined with contact tracing and isolation, helps control the spread of COVID-19 in Massachusetts. All test results, both positive and negative, are reported to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH). When a person has a positive COVID-19 test, it is the local board of health or the Massachusetts Community Tracing Collaborative that will reach out to provide support so that these individuals can remain safely in medical isolation. They will also ask for help to identify close contacts. These organizations will then reach out to the individual's close contacts to provide important information that is aimed to stop the spread of the virus, including how to safely isolate/quarantine. While these organizations will provide support, to further assist with contact tracing the student/family and staff are asked to reach out to their personal contacts and notify the school.

### **Self-isolation for COVID-19 positive cases is a minimum of 10 days**

Most people who test positive and have a relatively mild illness will need to stay in self-isolation for at least 10 days. People who test positive can resume public activities after 10 days and once they have:

- a. gone for 3 days without a fever (and without taking fever-reducing medications like Tylenol); and
- b. experienced improvement in other symptoms (for example, their cough has gotten much better); and

- c. received clearance from public health authority contact tracers (the local board of health or Community Tracing Collaborative).

Repeat testing prior to return is not recommended. Return to school should be based on time and symptom resolution.

**Close contacts of a positive COVID-19 case should be tested.** For general guidance, DPH defines close contact as:<sup>1</sup>

- Being within less than 6 feet of COVID-19 case for at least 10-15 minutes. Close contact can occur while caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a healthcare waiting area or room with a COVID-19 case while the case was symptomatic or within the 48 hours before symptom onset, OR
- Having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g., being coughed on) while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment.

**In school settings**, close contacts include other students and staff who were within 6 feet of the student or staff for at least 10-15 minutes in a classroom, in other school spaces, on the bus, or at an extracurricular activity. In elementary and other school situations where the students are in self-contained classrooms for an extended period, all students/staff within this “cohort” are considered close contacts as they may have been within 6 feet of the person with a positive test result. Possible close contacts should not come back to school until they have been tested (or elected instead to self-quarantine for 14 days). If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, then self-isolation is for a minimum of 10 days **and** until at least three days have passed with no fever and improvement in other symptoms as noted. If the test is negative, the student/staff can return to school if asymptomatic and wearing a mask.

### **Most common symptoms of COVID-19 and testing requirements**

The single most important thing to do if any of the following symptoms are present is to **STAY HOME**. Our collective health relies, in part, on individual attention and responsibility. Note that some symptoms of COVID-19 are the same as the flu or a bad cold; please do not assume it is another condition. When in doubt, stay home.

**Please STAY HOME if you have any of the symptoms listed.**

Below is the full list of symptoms for which caregivers should monitor their children, and staff should monitor themselves:<sup>2 3</sup>

- ☐ Fever (100.4° 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

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-testing-guidance/download>

<sup>2</sup> Massachusetts DPH, [Testing of Persons with Suspect COVID-19](#). (2020, May 13).

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

- ❑ Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies) *when in combination with other symptoms*

**If staff or students have any of these symptoms, they must get a test for active COVID-19 infection prior to returning to school.**

**Every school should have a list of available test sites.**<sup>4</sup> A [list of test sites is available here](#), and Massachusetts also has an [interactive testing map](#). Staff and students who have symptoms should also contact their primary care physician for further instructions. More information related to the availability of testing will be provided later this summer.

### **Protocols for possible COVID-19 scenarios**

**While specific protocols vary, there are some common elements for each possible COVID-19 scenario:**

- ✓ Evaluate symptoms
- ✓ Separate from others
- ✓ Clean and disinfect spaces visited by the person
- ✓ Test for COVID-19 and stay at home while awaiting results
- ✓ If test is positive:
  - Remain at home at least 10 days **and** until at least 3 days have passed with no fever and improvement in other symptoms
  - Monitor symptoms
  - Notify the school and personal close contacts
  - Answer the call from local board of health or Massachusetts Community Tracing Collaborative to help identify close contacts to help them prevent transmission
  - Secure release from contact tracers (local board of health or Community Tracing Collaborative) for return to school

**The following pages outline protocols for the scenarios below.**

#### **Section 1: Protocols for individual exposure or individual positive test**

- **Protocol: Student or staff tests positive for COVID-19**
- **Protocol: Close contact of student or staff tests positive for COVID-19**
- **Protocol: Student is symptomatic on the bus**
- **Protocol: Student is symptomatic at school**
- **Protocol: Staff is symptomatic at home**
- **Protocol: Staff is symptomatic at school**

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<sup>4</sup> A [list of test sites is available here](#); this is Massachusetts's [interactive testing map](#)

## Section 2: Protocols for potential school closure (partial or full) or district closure

- Protocol: Presence of multiple cases in the school or district
- Protocol: Presence of significant number of new cases in a municipality
- Protocol: Statewide regression to a previous reopening phase

### Quick reference sheet: Key actions for individual COVID-19 events

Event	Location of Event	Testing Result	Quarantine
<b>Individual is symptomatic</b>	If an individual is symptomatic <u>at home</u> , they should stay home and get tested.	Individual tests <b><u>negative</u></b>	Return to school once asymptomatic for 24 hours
	If an individual student is symptomatic <u>on the bus or at school</u> , they should remain masked and adhere to strict physical distancing. Students will then be met by the nurse and stay in the medical waiting room until they can go home. They should not be sent home on the bus. If an individual staff member is symptomatic at school, they should find coverage for their duties and then go home and get tested.	Individual tests <b><u>positive</u></b>	Remain home (except to get medical care), monitor 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 MA Community Tracing Collaborative. Most people who have relatively mild illness will need to stay in self-isolation for at least 10 days <b><u>and</u></b> until at least 3 days have passed with no fever and improvement in other symptoms.
		Individual <b><u>is not tested</u></b>	Remain home in self-isolation for 14 days from symptom onset
<b>Individual is exposed to COVID-19 positive individual</b>	If an individual is <u>at home</u> when they learn they were in close contact with an individual who tested positive for COVID-19, they should stay at home and be tested 4 or 5 days after their last exposure.	Individual tests <b><u>negative</u></b>	Return to school, if asymptomatic or once asymptomatic for 24 hours
	If an individual is <u>at school</u> when they learn they were in close contact with an individual who tested positive for COVID-19, they should be masked for the remainder of the day (including K-1 students) and adhere to strict physical distancing. At the end of the day, they should go home and should not take the bus	Individual tests <b><u>positive</u></b>	Remain home (except to get medical care), monitor 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 MA Community Tracing Collaborative. Most people who have relatively mild illness will need to stay in self-isolation for at least 10 days <b><u>and</u></b> until at least 3 days have passed with no fever and improvement in other symptoms.

	home. They should stay at home and be tested 4 or 5 days after their last exposure.	Individual <b><u>is not tested</u></b>	Remain home in self-quarantine for 14 days from exposure
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## ***Section 1: Protocols for individual exposure or individual positive test***

### **Protocol: Student or staff tests positive for COVID-19**

1. The student or staff member must 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. For most people who have relatively mild illness, they will need to stay in self-isolation for at least 10 days **and** until at least 3 days have passed with no fever and improvement in other symptoms.
2. The student's parent/caregiver or the staff member informs the proper school official (e.g. a designated person that is the COVID-19 school lead) that the individual has tested positive for COVID-19. The designated COVID-19 school lead in turn notifies others as pre-determined by the school (e.g., school leadership, school nurse or school medical point of contact, building management, maintenance).
3. Determine whether the student or staff member was on the premises during the time frame that started two days prior to symptom onset (or testing positive if not symptomatic) until the time of isolation.
  - a. If so, promptly close off areas visited by the COVID-19 positive individual until such areas can be cleaned and disinfected, if they have not been cleaned and disinfected already.
  - b. Promptly clean and disinfect the student's or staff member's classroom and any other facilities (e.g., extracurricular facilities) visited by the individual, if that has not been done already.
  - c. Promptly clean and disinfect the bus(es) the student or staff member was on, if any, and if not already done.
4. **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (e.g., student has self-contained classroom throughout the day):**
  - a. Send a communication to the other families in the student's class (e.g., cohort) that there has been a positive test without naming the individual student or staff member who tested positive.
  - b. Communications sent to families/staff should:
    - i. Inform them there was a positive test (not the specific individual) in the self-contained classroom.
    - ii. Explain that since they were within this cohort and may have been within 6 feet of the person with a positive test, they are considered a "close contact" and therefore should be tested. (In cases where the student may have been in close contact with others outside their cohort, having assigned seating and keeping up-to-date seating charts will help identify who should be instructed to be tested: specifically, those who were sitting next to the student, plus any others who also had close contact with the student.)

- iii. Instruct those designated as close contacts to isolate prior to their test and while waiting for the results. In general, as the highest yield test will be a few days after the exposure, ideally, the test should occur no sooner than day 4 or 5 after the last exposure. (In other words, if an exposure lasted several days, the best time to test is 4 or 5 days after the end of the exposure period.)
- iv. Explain that if close contacts choose not to be tested, the student or staff member should remain home in self-quarantine for 14 days.<sup>5</sup>
- v. Remind families and/or staff of the importance of not having contact with higher-risk individuals (e.g., grandparents and those with underlying medical conditions).
- vi. Remind families and/or staff of the list of COVID-19 symptoms for which to monitor.
- c. If the school finds out about the original COVID-19 positive test in the middle of a school day when the rest of the cohort is in class:
  - i. Make sure these students are wearing masks, including in kindergarten and first grade. Extra masks as may be needed should be provided by the school. Enforce strict physical distancing. Require students to wash their hands.
  - ii. The school should quickly identify the individuals who may be “close contacts” of the student and notify students and their families.
  - iii. Caregivers of students in the class or other close contacts may pick students up prior to the end of the day. Caregivers must wear a mask/face covering when picking up their student. Students who are close contacts and students with any symptoms should not ride the school bus to get home. Caregivers and students, as well as staff, should wash their hands upon arriving at home and change their clothes as a precaution.
  - iv. Close contacts should not come back to school until they have received the results of testing (or elected to instead quarantine for 14 days<sup>6</sup>) and are asked to communicate their test results to the school.
- d. As feasible, to assist with contact tracing, make a list including phone number and email of any other close contacts the student or staff member had, beginning two days before the onset of symptoms (or positive test if asymptomatic) until individual was isolated. Instruct those students and/or staff members to get tested according to the same protocol as the student’s cohort above.

**5. MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL (e.g., no single self-contained classroom):**

- a. The school should identify the student’s or staff member’s possible “close contacts” based on the assigned seating charts. The lookback period should begin two days before symptoms appeared (or two days prior to the date of the positive test if there were no symptoms) and include up until the time the student was isolated. Consider students and staff members who were within 6 feet of the individual for 10-15 minutes in class, on the school bus, or at extracurricular activities.
- b. Follow the communication and other relevant Elementary School protocols above.
- c. Close contacts should be tested for COVID-19 at one of Massachusetts’s test sites.<sup>7</sup> Sites may require pre-screening, a referral, and/or an appointment.
- d. Instruct the student or staff member to isolate while waiting for the results of their test.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/about-covid-19-testing#where-can-get-a-test?>



- e. An individual who does not wish to be tested should instead quarantine for 14 days<sup>8</sup> and until asymptomatic.

**6. IF OTHERS IN THE SCHOOL TEST POSITIVE:** Perform all steps under this protocol for that person. **ALSO FOLLOW:** “Protocol: Presence of multiple cases in the school.”

**7. IF NO OTHERS IN THE SCHOOL TEST POSITIVE:** Close contacts can return to school immediately if they test negative and do not have symptoms; however, strict mask wearing covering the nose and mouth must be maintained at all times. The wearing of masks includes K-1 students for this 14-day period. If they have symptoms but test negative regardless, they should wait until they are asymptomatic for 24 hours before returning to school.

**Any area** of the school visited by the COVID-19 positive individual must be closed off and/or cleaned and disinfected. The area can be used 12 hours after cleaning/disinfecting has occurred.

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

1. Current Massachusetts DPH guidance is that all close contacts of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 should be tested.<sup>9</sup>
2. 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.<sup>10</sup> Sites may require pre-screening, a referral, and/or an appointment. An individual who does not wish to be tested should instead quarantine for 14 days<sup>11</sup> and until asymptomatic.
3. Close contacts should isolate at home prior to testing and while awaiting test results. Ability to mask is critical, so if the close contact cannot mask or is in K-1 and not masking they should not return for 14 days.
4. In order to return to school, close contacts need to have one negative test result and not be showing any COVID-19 symptoms, or if they do not wish to be tested, quarantine at home for 14 days. 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.
5. **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

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-testing-guidance/download>

<sup>10</sup> [https://www.mass.gov/info-details/about-covid-19-testing#where-can-get-a-test?-](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/about-covid-19-testing#where-can-get-a-test?)

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

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 3 days have passed with no fever and improvement in other symptoms.  
**FOLLOW STEPS UNDER:** “Protocol: Student / staff tests positive for COVID-19.”

### **Protocol: Student is symptomatic at home**

1. Family should monitor students at home each morning for the most common symptoms of COVID-19 (see list above).
  - a. **IF NO SYMPTOMS:**
    - i. Send student to school.
  - b. **IF ANY SYMPTOM:**
    - i. Do not send the student to school.
    - ii. Call the school’s COVID-19 point of contact and inform them student is staying home due to symptoms.
    - iii. Current Massachusetts DPH guidance is that all symptomatic individuals in Massachusetts, even those with mild symptoms, should be tested.<sup>12</sup> An individual who does not wish to be tested should instead isolate for 14 days<sup>13</sup> and until asymptomatic.
    - iv. The student should get tested at one of Massachusetts’s test sites.<sup>14</sup> Sites may require pre-screening, a referral, and/or an appointment.
    - v. Isolate at home until test results are returned.
    - vi. Proceed as follows according to test results:
      1. **IF NEGATIVE:** Student stays home until asymptomatic for 24 hours.
      2. **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 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 3 days have passed with no fever and improvement in other symptoms.<sup>15</sup> **FOLLOW STEPS UNDER:** “Protocol: Student / staff tests positive for COVID-19.”

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<sup>12</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-testing-guidance/download>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/about-covid-19-testing#where-can-get-a-test?>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/doc/information-sheet-how-to-self-quarantine-and-self-isolate/download>

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

1. 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).
2. If symptoms are noticed as the student is getting on the bus and if there is a caregiver present, do not allow student to board the bus. Caregiver should then **FOLLOW:** "Protocol: Student is symptomatic at home."
3. If student is already on the bus, ensure student is masked and keeps mask on. Ensure other students keep their masks on. Ensure student keeps required physical distance from other students.
4. 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.
5. School nurse (or school medical point of contact) should meet the bus as it arrives, wearing a mask. As practical, student with possible symptoms should exit the bus first.
6. Bus should be cleaned / disinfected.
7. Nurse (or school medical point of contact) should evaluate the student for symptoms (see list above: "Most common symptoms of COVID-19").
  - a. **IF ANY SYMPTOM:**
    - i. Place the student in the designated medical waiting room. There is no specific capacity limit for the medical waiting room, but all students in the medical waiting room must be as far apart as possible, and no less than 6 feet. 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.
    - ii. Contact caregiver for pick-up.
      1. **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.
      2. **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 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.<sup>16</sup> An individual who does not wish to be tested should instead isolate for 14 days<sup>17</sup> and until asymptomatic.
  - iv. Student should get tested at one of Massachusetts's test sites.<sup>18</sup> Sites may require pre-screening, a referral, and/or an appointment.
  - v. Isolate at home until test results are returned.
  - vi. Proceed as follows according to test results:
    - 1. **IF NEGATIVE:** If the student does not have COVID-19, the student may return to school based upon guidance from their clinician and necessary management of another diagnosis. Student stays home until asymptomatic for 24 hours.
    - 2. **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 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 3 days have passed with no fever and improvement in other symptoms.<sup>19</sup> **FOLLOW STEPS UNDER:** "Protocol: Student/staff tests positive for COVID-19."
- b. **IF NO SYMPTOMS:**
- i. If the evaluation shows the student does not have symptoms, send the student to class.

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<sup>16</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-testing-guidance/download>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/about-covid-19-testing#where-can-get-a-test?>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/doc/information-sheet-how-to-self-quarantine-and-self-isolate/download>

## **Protocol: Student is symptomatic at school**

1. 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.)
2. Teacher ensures the student is wearing a mask that fully covers nose and mouth at all times.
3. 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.
4. Nurse (or school medical point of contact) should evaluate the student for symptoms (see list above: "Most common symptoms of COVID-19").
  - a. **IF ANY SYMPTOM:**
    - i. Place the student in the designated medical waiting room. There is no specific capacity limit for the medical waiting room, but all students in the COVID-19 waiting room must be as far apart as possible, and no less than 6 feet. 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
    - ii. Contact caregiver for pick-up.
      1. **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.
      2. **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 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.<sup>20</sup> An individual who does not wish to be tested should instead isolate for 14 days<sup>21</sup> and until asymptomatic.
    - iv. Student should get tested at one of Massachusetts's test sites.<sup>22</sup> Sites may require pre-screening, a referral, and/or appointment.
    - v. Isolate at home until test results are returned.
    - vi. Proceed as follows according to test results:
      1. **IF NEGATIVE:** If the student does not have COVID-19, the student may return to school based upon guidance from their clinician and necessary management of another diagnosis. Student stays home until asymptomatic for 24 hours.
      2. **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 local board of health or

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-testing-guidance/download>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/about-covid-19-testing#where-can-get-a-test?>

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 3 days have passed with no fever and improvement in other symptoms.<sup>23</sup> **FOLLOW STEPS UNDER:** “Protocol: Student or staff tests positive for COVID-19.”

**b. IF NO SYMPTOMS:**

- i. If the evaluation shows the student does not have symptoms, send the student back to class.

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<sup>23</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/doc/information-sheet-how-to-self-quarantine-and-self-isolate/download>

## **Protocol: Staff is symptomatic at home**

1. Staff should monitor themselves at home each morning for the most common symptoms of COVID-19 (see list above: “Most common symptoms of COVID-19”).
  - a. **IF NO SYMPTOMS:**
    - i. Come to work.
  - b. **IF ANY SYMPTOM:**
    - i. Do not come to work.
    - ii. Contact the COVID-19 point of contact and/or other absence reporting mechanism established by the school.
    - iii. Current Massachusetts DPH guidance is that all symptomatic individuals in Massachusetts, even those with mild symptoms, should be tested.<sup>24</sup> An individual who does not wish to be tested should instead isolate for 14 days<sup>25</sup> and until asymptomatic.
    - iv. The staff member should get tested at one of Massachusetts’ test sites.<sup>26</sup> Sites may require pre-screening, a referral, and/or an appointment.
    - v. Isolate at home until test results are returned.
    - vi. Proceed as follows according to test results:
      1. **IF NEGATIVE:** If the staff member does not have COVID-19, they may return to school based upon guidance from their clinician and necessary management of another diagnosis. Staff member stays home until asymptomatic for 24 hours.
      2. **IF POSITIVE:** 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 3 days have passed with no fever and improvement in other symptoms.<sup>27</sup> **FOLLOW STEPS UNDER:** “Protocol: Student/staff tests positive for COVID-19”.

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<sup>24</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-testing-guidance/download>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/about-covid-19-testing#where-can-get-a-test?>

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/doc/information-sheet-how-to-self-quarantine-and-self-isolate/download>



## **Protocol: Staff is symptomatic at school**

1. As noted above, staff should be encouraged not to come to school if they are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19.
2. If a staff member suspects any symptoms during the day, they should follow the school's protocols for getting another adult to cover their class mid-day, if needed, and see the school nurse (or school medical point of contact) to be evaluated for symptoms.
  - a. **IF NO SYMPTOMS:** The staff member should follow the school's standard protocols for being excused due to illness.
  - b. **IF ANY SYMPTOM:**
    - i. Current Massachusetts DPH guidance is that all symptomatic individuals in Massachusetts, even those with mild symptoms, should be tested.<sup>28</sup> An individual who does not wish to be tested should instead isolate for 14 days<sup>29</sup> and until asymptomatic.
    - ii. The staff member should get tested at one of Massachusetts's test sites.<sup>30</sup> Sites may require pre-screening, a referral, and/or appointment.
    - iii. Isolate at home until test results are returned.
    - iv. Proceed as follows according to test results:
      1. **IF NEGATIVE:** Staff member stays home until asymptomatic for 24 hours.
      2. **IF POSITIVE:** 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 3 days have passed with no fever and improvement in other symptoms.<sup>31</sup> **FOLLOW STEPS UNDER:** "Protocol: Student/staff tests positive for COVID-19".

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<sup>28</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-testing-guidance/download>

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/about-covid-19-testing#where-can-get-a-test?>

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/doc/information-sheet-how-to-self-quarantine-and-self-isolate/download>

## ***Section 2: Protocols for potential school closure (partial or full) or district closure***

### **Protocol: Presence of multiple cases in the school or district**

1. If there is more than one confirmed COVID-19 case (students or staff) in the school at one time, or if there is a series of single cases in a short time span, school leaders and the superintendent should work with the local board of health to determine if it is likely that there is transmission happening in school.
2. For each individual case, **FOLLOW STEPS UNDER:** “Protocol: Student or staff tests positive for COVID-19.” Note that when there is one isolated case, the student’s close contacts will need to stay home and be tested, not the whole school.
3. When there is suspected in-school transmission *beyond one cohort or a small number of cohorts*, school and district leaders must consult with the local board of health as to proposed next steps. These steps could include, *for example*, making a decision to a) close part of the school or the entire school for a short time (e.g. 1-3 days) for an extensive cleaning or other facility mitigation, or b) close the school partially or fully for the longer duration of a 14-day quarantine period.
4. Should there be circumstances where there are multiple cases in multiple schools, school and district leaders must consult with the local board of health as to proposed next steps. These steps could include, *for example*, making a decision to a) shut down the district for a short time (e.g. 1-3 days) for an extensive cleaning or other facility mitigation, or b) shut down the district for the longer duration of a 14-day quarantine period.
5. **Before a final decision is made on a school or district closure, the superintendent must consult with DESE for further guidance.**

#### **Contacts:**

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6. If the decision is made to close for some number of days, the school and/or district should send clear information and instructions to families and staff:
  - a. Informing them that it is possible COVID-19 is being transmitted in the school and/or district
  - b. Noting that there may be more potential cases that are not yet symptomatic
  - c. Recommending students quarantine and not have contact with others
  - d. Reminding families of the importance of not having contact with higher-risk individuals (e.g., grandparents)
  - e. Reminding families of the list of COVID-19 symptoms for which to monitor
  - f. Ensuring that remote learning is immediately provided to all students

7. Before bringing students back to school:
  - a. Check inventory levels of needed supplies (e.g., disposable masks, soap, hand sanitizer, cleaning products); re-order replacement inventory
  - b. Consider a school-wide refresher training on the importance of correct hygiene procedures (masks, physical distance, handwashing)
  - c. Reiterate the critical nature of masks, physical distancing, and hand hygiene when students return to school

### **Protocol: Presence of significant number of new cases in a municipality**

1. In the case of significant municipal outbreak, as determined by the local board of health or DPH, the superintendent and school leaders must consult with the local board of health to determine whether it is appropriate to close a specific school, schools, or an entire district.
2. **Before a final decision is made on a school or district closure, the superintendent must consult with DESE for further guidance.**

#### **Contacts:**

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### **Protocol: State-wide regression to a previous reopening phase**

1. Massachusetts is tracking its overall statewide reopening in phases according to the [Reopening Massachusetts](#) plan. Currently, Massachusetts is in Phase 3 of reopening, where even more businesses can resume operations with specific guidance.
2. If Massachusetts moves back into a prior phase, DESE (in consultation with the Massachusetts COVID-19 Command Center) will communicate with school districts and schools to determine whether in-person school should continue.

## APPENDIX C: SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

- 1. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee adopt the Fall Reopening Plan as presented subject to any collective bargaining obligations and, with the understanding that the situation is fluid and changes to the plan can and will be made as needed based on health data.*
- 2. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee adopt the 2020-2021 school calendar as presented in Appendix A.*
- 3. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee adopt the following return to in-person learning from remote learning policy:*

Given that there may be challenges with physical distancing, curriculum continuity, and other programming issues such as educator capacity when a family would like their child who has been learning remotely to return to school the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional District Administration will work with schools to return students to in-person learning as soon as possible, but no longer than three-weeks after the request is received. Remote learning will remain in place until the student physically returns to school.