



## Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District

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### DISTRICT COVID CASE PROTOCOLS

AND

### Frequently Asked Questions Related to COVID-19

These protocols are the same for every school in the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District. However, each case is handled individually as the circumstances will vary. Every scenario is different and every situation is fully vetted. If it appears that something different is happening in one case versus another case, it is likely that you do not know all the facts of each case. As a team the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, District Nurse Leader, Principal, and School Nurse confer on every known positive case and possible presumptive positive cases. Based on the facts of the case a course of action is determined. This typically involves the following:

- Determining the potential for close contacts within school. If there are close contacts within school, they are notified immediately, typically by phone. They are given directions about contacting their health care provider, being tested, and when they will be allowed back in school.
- A follow up letter goes out to all close contacts outlining the information above.
- A letter goes to non-close contacts explaining that they have not been a close contact although there has been a case in the school.
- If the child rides a bus, contact tracing is done for those who ride the same bus.
- Local Board of Health and VNA and/or Community Tracing Collaborative are notified of all positive cases for community contact tracing purposes.
- The district's nurse leader notifies the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Rapid Response Center and discusses the case with an epidemiologist. This person helps to determine if schools/districts should remain open. In most cases only close contacts have to be out.

#### What happens if a child becomes symptomatic while in school?

**Answer:** The school nurse evaluates the child's symptoms. If symptoms are determined to be those on the COVID checklist, then the child will wait in the designated COVID medical waiting room until picked up by a parent. **We will recommend that the parent contact their health care provider and request that the child get a COVID test. We ask that they provide us with the results of the test.** If the test is negative the child can return to school, if at least 24 hours have passed with no fever and improvement in other symptoms.

***Please remember: If your child has any of the following symptoms or close contact with a positive Covid19 case, DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL, and inform the school nurse.***

- ☐ Temperature of 100.0 or higher
- ☐ Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)

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- ☐ 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*)
- ☐ Nasal congestion or runny nose (*not due to other known cause, such as allergies*)
- ☐ Close contact (*within 6 feet for 10-15 minutes*) to a positive COVID19 case
- ☐ Traveled to a state designated as high risk (per MA travel advisory)

**The best way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is to keep your children home when they don't feel well or when they demonstrate any of the above symptoms.**

#### **What happens if someone from the school community tests positive?**

**Answer:** The person must stay out of school for at least 10 days and until at least 24 hours have passed with no fever and improvement in other symptoms.

When someone from the school community tests positive we look back 48 hours from the last time the person was present in school to determine who the “close contacts” are.

**Definition: A close contact is someone who has been within six feet, with or without a mask, of a known positive for at least 15 minutes, cumulatively.** Any students or staff members who are considered close contacts will be notified immediately.

It will be recommended that they get a test. The only acceptable test is a molecular PCR test. If the test is negative for someone who was a close contact of someone who tested positive, they can return to school after the required 14-day self-quarantine period. We ask that those who get tested provide the school nurse with the results of the test.

#### **What happens if someone who was symptomatic tests negative?**

**Answer:** Since the symptoms of COVID are similar to many other illnesses, sometimes a person will appear symptomatic, but will receive a negative test. If the test is negative for a person who is symptomatic but was **not** in close contact with someone who tested positive, they can return to school once 24 hours have passed with no fever and improvement in symptoms, without the use of fever reducing medications.

#### **What if someone I live with is a close contact to someone in another workplace?**

**Answer:** If someone you live with is identified as a close contact from his/her workplace, you are not a close contact unless the person you live with becomes symptomatic or tests positive. We do recommend that close contacts get tested. This helps stop the spread. If the person you live with should test positive, you would then be a close contact.

#### **Where can I find out more about the cases in my district?**

**Answer:** The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education posts weekly information about district cases at <https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/positive-cases/>.

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