



# HOLYOKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## A PATHWAY FOR EVERY STUDENT

### Guidance for Symptomatic, COVID-19 Positive, and Close Contact Individuals

**Who is a Close Contact?** Outside of the classroom and bus, anyone who has been within 6-feet of the positive case for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (*for example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes in one day/24-hours*) starting from 2 days before they have any symptoms (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days before the positive specimen collection date), until they meet criteria for discontinuing home isolation based on our protocol. Students in the classroom or on the bus while both individuals were masked do not have to quarantine unless they were within 3 feet of distance of the COVID-19 positive individual for a total of 15 minutes during a 24-hour period. *This does not apply if someone was identified as a close contact outside of the classroom or bus (e.g., in sports, extra-curriculars, lunch, etc.) or if masks are not worn by both persons at the time of the exposure.* All other close contacts must follow the standard protocol for when a close contact may return to school. **Please note, if you have been in contact with someone that has been identified as a close contact- this DOES NOT make you a close contact.** You are only a close contact if you have been in contact with the positive person and meet the above criteria.

**Contact Tracing** School district-based close contacts of a known COVID-19 positive individual will be contacted by their school building nurse and may also be contacted by either a Board of Health official or a member of the Community Tracing Collaborative (CTC). The close contact will be provided with as many details of the exposure as possible (how, when and where), however, the name of the COVID-19 positive individual is confidential and is never provided to close contacts. The board of health traces outside of the school district (in collaboration with the CTC). Holyoke Public School cases are reported directly to the local Board of Health. The nurse follows the guidance of the local Board of Health, MDPH and CDC guidance to make the determination. If the individual has been in school at any point during the infectious time, the nurse refers to items such as the schedule, seating charts, bus seating charts, bus camera, and other means available to them. The school nurse reaches out to the family/staff member to discuss next steps based on the specifics of their case. If a close contact is in the school building at the time we learn of the positive case, they would be brought to the medical waiting (isolation) room by nursing and sent home. They must be picked up by the family at school. Please be sure your and your emergency contact's phone number/Email is up-to-date. The BOH/CTC contact tracer follows up with the out-of-school close contacts.

### How long does a close contact need to Quarantine or Isolate?

The exposed, symptomatic or COVID-19 positive individual will follow the guidelines consistent with one of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health options listed below. The staff member or student's family for student cases will need to follow-up with their building nurse for clearance to return

to school. Household members who cannot completely isolate themselves from the positive individual will need to start their quarantine when the positive case ends their isolation. Individuals isolate if sick or test positive and quarantine if “might” be sick or are exposed.

Quick Reference Sheet: Key Actions for Individual COVID-19 Events			
Event	Location of Event	Testing Result	Quarantine
<b>Individual is Symptomatic</b>  <b>(NO Known COVID-19 exposure)</b>	<p>If an individual is symptomatic at Home, they should stay home and get tested.</p> <p>If an individual student is symptomatic on the bus or at school, 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.</p> <p>If an individual staff member is symptomatic at school, they should find coverage for their duties and then go home and get tested.</p>	Individual Tests <b>negative</b>	Return to school once <b>24-hours have passed</b> with no fever and improvement in symptoms, without the use of fever reducing medications.
		Individual Tests <b>Positive</b>  <i>(count 10 days from test date)</i>	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 the 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 <b>10 days</b> and until at least 24 hours have passed with no fever and improvement in other symptoms.
		Individual <b>is not tested</b>	Remain home in self-isolation for <b>10 days</b> from symptom onset, then return once 24-hours have passed with no fever and improvement in symptoms, without the use of fever-reducing medication.
<b>Individual is Exposed to COVID-19 Positive Individual</b>	<p>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 5-days after their last exposure.</p> <p>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</p>	Individual Tests <b>Positive</b>  <i>(count 10 days from test date)</i>	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 the local board of health or MA Community Tracing Collaborative. Most people who have relatively mild illness will need to stay in self-isolation for <b>at least 10 days</b> and until at least 24-hours have passed with no fever and improvement in symptoms, without the use of fever-reducing medications.

<p>Please note: Decisions about who needs to quarantine and for how long may be determined</p>	<p>the day and adhere to strict physical distancing. At the end of the day, they should go home and should not take the bus home. <i>They should stay at home and be tested 5 days after their last exposure.</i></p>	<p>Individual tests <b>negative or is not tested</b></p> <p><i>(Count from last exposure to the COVID+ individual. Some households are not able to isolate the positive individual and if so, the other household members' quarantine count starts after the positive individual completes their isolation)</i></p>	<p>Please note: Close contacts who were exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual in the classroom or on the bus while both individuals were masked do not have to quarantine unless they were within 3-feet of distance of the COVID-19 positive individual for a total of 15 minutes during a 24-hour period. Also, individuals who are fully vaccinated or who have had confirmed COVID-19 in the last 90 days do not need to be quarantined as long as they do not have symptoms.</p> <p>Remain home and self-quarantine consistent with the guidance below: <b>At least 7 days</b>, provided that all of the following are satisfied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ They are tested (either PCR or antigen test on day 5 or later from their last exposure to the positive individual and receive a negative test result.</li> <li>➤ They have not experienced any symptoms up to this point.</li> <li>➤ They conduct active monitoring for symptoms through day 14 and self-isolate if new symptoms develop.</li> </ul> <p><b>At least 10 days</b>, provided that all of the following are satisfied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ They have not experienced any symptoms up to this point.</li> <li>➤ They conduct active monitoring through day 14 and self-isolate if new symptoms develop.</li> <li>➤ No test is necessary under this option.</li> </ul> <p><b>At least 14 days</b> after the last exposure to the person who tested positive, if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ They have experienced any symptoms during the quarantine period, even if they have a negative COVID-19 test; or</li> <li>➤ They are unable to conduct active monitoring of their symptoms</li> </ul> <p><b>Active monitoring requires individuals to actively</b></p>
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<p>in collaboration with the local board of health and/or the contact tracers.</p>	<p>Adapted from: <a href="https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-de-sktop/protocols/">https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-de-sktop/protocols/</a></p>		<p><b>monitor their symptoms and take temperature once daily.</b> <u>If even mild symptoms develop or the individual has a temperature of 100.00 F, they must immediately self-isolate, and contact their building nurse and public health authority overseeing their quarantine.</u></p>
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