

Marlborough Public Schools COVID-19 Procedures for Staff

2022-2023 School Year

COVID-19 Reporting: School districts are no longer tracking and reporting positive COVID-19 cases to DESE. Moving forward, the only reporting action that an individual who tests positive needs to do is enter any absence from work in Aesop.

COVID-19 Testing: School nurses will not be conducting COVID-19 testing this school year. Symptomatic students will be sent home with at-home kits to test at home. Symptomatic staff should not go to the nurse's office but notify administration that they need to go home. Staff should obtain their own rapid tests to administer at home from a variety of locations offering free test kits. The exception to this is staff with mild symptoms, who can remain in school if tested immediately and the test is negative. They can obtain self-test kit at the main office.

COVID-19: During this school year, we hope that our school communities can experience full educational opportunities. Yet we will continue to be mindful of the virus as it continues to be a presence in our lives. The information provided here reflects the most up to date COVID-19 guidance from the [MA Department of Public Health](#) and the [Department of Elementary and Secondary Education](#).

Masks: Masks are not required except in school health offices. However, anyone who wishes to continue to wear a mask, including those who face higher risk from COVID-19 will be supported in their decision to continue masking.

COVID-19 Vaccines: Vaccines and boosters remain the best way to protect yourself and your family, reduce the spread of COVID-19, and lessen the chances of severe illness and hospitalization. Anyone six months and older who live or go to school in Massachusetts can now get vaccinated. The vaccine is safe, free and effective. No identification or insurance is required. Visit VaxFinder.mass.gov for information and to schedule an appointment for a vaccine or booster. You can learn about disability-friendly vaccine events for people with disabilities or sensory support needs at [VaxAbilities](#).

Guidelines for Close Contact to Positive Case:

Quarantine is no longer required nor recommended for children or staff in these settings, regardless of vaccination status or where the exposure occurred. All exposed individuals may continue to attend programming as long as they remain asymptomatic. Those who can mask should do so until Day 10, and it is recommended that they test on Day 6 of exposure. If symptoms develop, follow the guidance for symptomatic individuals, below.

Guidelines for Individuals who Test Positive:

Staff who test positive must isolate for at least 5 days. To count days for isolation, Day 0 is the first day of symptoms OR the day the day positive test was taken, whichever is earlier. If they are asymptomatic or symptoms are resolving and they have been fever free without the use of fever-reducing medicine for 24 hours, they may return to programming after Day 5 and should wear a high-quality mask through Day 10.

Guidelines for Individuals with Symptoms NOT Exposed to COVID-19:

- Symptomatic individuals can remain in their school or program if they have mild symptoms, are tested immediately onsite (self-test kit provided in main office), and that test is negative. Best practice would also include wearing a mask, if the individual is able to mask, until symptoms are fully resolved. For symptomatic individuals, DPH recommends a second test within 48 hours if the initial test is negative.
 - If the symptomatic individual cannot be test immediately at work, they should go home to test and can return to their program or school if symptoms remain mild and they test negative, or they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and their symptoms are resolving, or if a medical professional makes an alternative diagnosis. A negative test is strongly recommended for return.

COVID-19 Symptoms:

- Fever (100.0° Fahrenheit or higher), chills or shaking chills
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell
- Muscle aches or body aches
- Cough (not due to other known causes, such as a chronic cough)
- Sore throat, *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Nausea or vomiting, *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Headache, *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Fatigue, *when in combination with other symptoms*

August 31, 2022