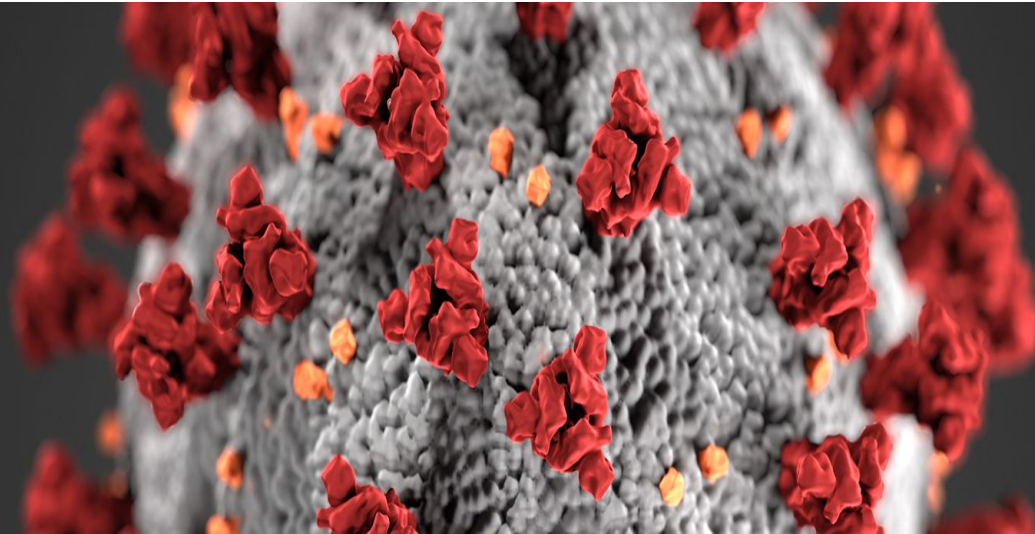


Dartmouth Public Schools Covid-19 Resource Hand book



Covid Response Protocols K-12



Guidance for COVID-19 outbreak response in Pre K-12

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Purpose of Resource Handbook

- This handbook provides guidance on how to respond if a child or staff member exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 or tests positive for COVID-19.
- The information shared in this document assumes that Pre K-12 and parents/guardians are complying with current Mass guidelines and CDC guidance.



Purpose of Resource Handbook



- Please keep this handbook easily accessible for reference.
 - This handbook is intended to share general best practices which will be used by all DPS schools. It does not address unique situation-specific questions that you may have.
 - In the event of a probable or confirmed case of COVID-19 in the school setting, in addition to this resource, CDC, DESE and DPH will support you throughout the process.

Glossary

COVID-19

Abbreviation for the disease caused by the novel coronavirus SARS CoV-2

Close contact

Being within 6 feet of an infected person (with or without a face mask) for at least 15 minutes, or having unprotected direct contact with secretions or excretions of a person with confirmed COVID-19 during the infectious period

*In an abundance of caution, a close contact in Elementary and Middle school will include the classroom cohort, siblings, teachers, car pools, and students in close proximity to each other.

Glossary



Community transmission

Occurs when individuals acquire COVID-19 through contact with someone in their local community, rather than through travel to an affected location.

Glossary



Confirmed case

A person who has tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 infection (the virus that causes COVID-19)

Contact tracing

Process of identifying individuals who have had close contact (see definition above) with someone infected with COVID-19

Incubation period

The time between exposure to an infection and the appearance of first symptoms. The virus that causes COVID-19 has an incubation period of 2-14 days.

Glossary



Infectious period (asymptomatic cases)

2 days prior to testing (the date of the swabbing was conducted) until CDC criteria to discontinue isolation are met

Infectious period (symptomatic cases)

2 days before symptom onset until CDC criteria to discontinue isolation are met

Glossary

Isolation

Process of separating individuals who are infected with COVID-19 from others. Isolation lasts a minimum of 10 days from symptom onset if symptomatic. If a person infected with COVID-19, has no symptoms, isolation lasts a minimum of 10 days from the date of test specimen collection (test). For individuals who have severe immunocompromising conditions (ie: Diabetes, Heart Condition, Cancer etc.), isolation is at least 20 days.

Glossary



Quarantine

Process of separating and restricting the movement of individuals who were in close contact with someone who tested positive or had symptoms of COVID-19. Anyone who has been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 must stay home for a minimum of 14 days since the last day of contact with the person with COVID-19 and watch for symptoms of COVID-19.

Glossary



Protocol

Recommended actions to follow in the event of a probable or confirmed case of COVID-19 occurs

Probable case

Individual who has the following symptoms: fever (measured > 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit or subjective), chills (rigors), body aches(myalgia), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose, cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing, new loss of smell or new loss of taste.

Glossary



Screening

Assessing individuals for symptoms of COVID-19 verbally or via self/parent attestation.

Symptomatic individual

A person who is experiencing one or more of the symptoms of COVID-19 as defined in CDC guidelines

Testing

Two types of tests are available for COVID-19: viral tests and antibody tests. Viral tests indicate if you have a current infection while antibody tests indicate a previous infection. Throughout this document, 'testing' refers to the viral test to diagnose a person with COVID-19.

Symptoms of COVID-19



Fever or Chills (100.0 or higher)

Cough (*new, not due to known cause, such as chronic cough*)

Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Fatigue (*when in combination with other symptoms*)

Muscle or body aches

Headache (*when in combination with other symptoms*)

New loss of taste or smell

Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea

Sore throat

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

Not all symptoms of COVID-19 make someone a probable case

If a student or staff are exhibiting **any** Covid-19 symptom that is a **change** in their **baseline health** (*documentation strongly recommended, i.e severe allergies, IBS, etc*) they will be sent home and recommended to test for Covid-19.

If individuals chose not to be tested they will be required to quarantine for 10 days from start of symptoms and must be fever and symptom free for 24 hours without medication prior to return to school.

If you have traveled to another state or out of the country please contact the local board of health for guidance on testing/quarantine.

Respiratory conditions



- Albuterol Nebulizer treatments will not be given in the health office at this time. They are considered an aerosol and increases the likelihood to spread COVID-19.
- Any student or staff with an order for Albuterol are recommended to obtain a spacer to be used with their inhaler. The purpose for this recommended is that having a spacer increases the delivery of medication.
- An emergency standing order will be in place to have an Albuterol inhaler with disposable spacers in the event of an emergency situation.

STUDENT SCREENING SYMPTOM CHECKLIST

Parents must complete a daily screening symptoms check by answering these questions before sending their child to school . This form does not need to be sent to school.



	Yes	No
1. Has your child had close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) with a confirmed case of COVID-19?		
2. Does your child have a fever (over 100 degrees) or chills?		
3. Does your child have a new or worsening cough?		
4. Does your child have a sore throat?		
5. Does your child have difficulty breathing or shortness of breath?		
6. Does your child have fatigue?		

STUDENT SCREENING SYMPTOM CHECKLIST Cont.

Parents must complete a daily screening symptoms check by answering these questions before sending their child to school . This form does not need to be sent to school.

	Yes	No
7. Does your child have nausea,vomiting, or diarrhea?		
8. Does your child have congestion or a runny nose (not due to allergies)?		
9. Does your child have unexplained body or muscle aches?		
10. Does your child have a headache?		
11. Does your child have new loss of taste or smell?		

STUDENT SCREENING SYMPTOM CHECKLIST Cont.

Parents must complete a daily screening symptoms check by answering these questions before sending their child to school . This form does not need to be sent to school.



If **YES** to any of these questions, **DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL**. Please seek guidance from your medical provider. Contact your child's school to notify them of symptoms.



If **NO** to all questions, send your child to school.

Face Masks



Cloth face coverings are recommended as a simple barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air and onto other people when the person wearing the cloth face covering coughs, sneezes, talks, or raises their voice.

Approved face masks:

- Ear loop cloth mask

- Surgical mask

- *Bandana and neck gaiters are not approved as a face mask

ALL Staff and students (all grade levels) are required to wear a mask while in school buildings. Medical exemption will be needed if person is unable to wear mask. Mask breaks will be given throughout the day.

Lunch and snack time

- Students will be eating in the classrooms this year
- Due to this, **PEANUTS AND TREE NUTS** will not be allowed in the classroom
- Students will remain at their desks to have lunch and/or snack
 - *High school students will be eating in the cafeteria and designated tables for allergy aware will remain in place.*
- Hand hygiene is strongly recommended after lunch and/or snack time.
- Hand sanitizer will be accessible in all classrooms.

Hand Washing

Hand hygiene is an important part of the U.S. response to the international emergence of COVID-19. Practicing hand hygiene, which includes the use of alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) or handwashing, is a simple yet effective way to prevent the spread of pathogens and infections. CDC recommendations reflect this important role.

Social Distancing



COVID-19 spreads mainly among people who are in close contact (within about 6 feet) for a prolonged period. Spread happens when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks, and droplets from their mouth or nose are launched into the air and land in the mouths or noses of people nearby.

To practice social or physical distancing, stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arm lengths) from other people who are not from your household in both indoor and outdoor spaces.

Social distancing should be practiced in combination with other everyday preventive actions to reduce the spread of COVID-19, including wearing masks, avoiding touching your face with unwashed hands, and frequently washing your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Determining Close Contacts in Schools



Close contacts in schools:

Settings where physical distancing can be maintained or determined

- Close contacts are those within 6 feet for > 15 minutes
- Classrooms with assigned seats
- Buses with assigned seats and controlled entry/exit
- Seating charts needed for contact identification and tracing


Determining Close Contacts in Schools



Settings where physical distancing cannot be maintained or determined :

- Entire classroom/group members are likely to be close contacts
- Childcare and summer camp
- K-12 classrooms without physical distancing or assigned seats
- Sports teams

Note: case investigation may reveal additional close contacts



Protocols to Respond to a symptomatic person in Schools during the Covid-19 Pandemic

Protocol- Probable Case



Situation	Isolation and Quarantine Protocol	Recommended Testing Protocol	Requirement to Return
Staff or student is a probable case	Symptomatic individual is isolated and sent home. Siblings are also sent home. No action for close contacts while waiting for test result	Advise symptomatic individual to seek medical advice and obtain a COVID PCR(viral) test	Documentation of one of the following: Must provide documentation of positive result or if not tested have isolated for 10 days and free of fever and symptoms for 72 hours without medication. OR Must provide documentation of negative result, and be free of fever and symptoms for 24 hours without medication.

Protocol-Positive Case



Situation	Isolation and Quarantine Protocol	Recommended Testing Protocol	Requirement to Return
Staff or student tests positive	Person testing positive is isolated per CDC/DESE Guidelines for 10 days	Close contacts are quarantined for 14 days since last COVID-19 exposure.	<p>Positive individuals must meet the CDC/DESE guidelines for ending isolation before returning to school.</p> <p>Must provide documentation of positive result, have isolated for 10 days and free of fever and symptoms for 72 hours without medication and also received clearance from public health authority contact tracers (the local board of health or Community Tracing Collaborative)</p>

Protocol-Close Contact of Positive Case



Situation	Isolation and Quarantine Protocol	Recommended Testing Protocol	Requirement to Return
Staff or student is a close contact of a confirmed case	<p>A close contact is home quarantined for 14 days after last exposure to the confirmed case.</p> <p><i>If the close contact lives in the same household, the 14 days of quarantine starts when the confirmed case ends isolation. A household close contact who has ongoing exposure to the confirmed case is usually quarantined for at least 25 days.</i></p>	Close contacts in quarantine should self-monitor for symptoms and seek medical advice by healthcare provider	<p>Children or staff member must meet the CDC guidelines for ending quarantine before returning to school.</p> <p>Quarantine for 14 days after the last date of exposure to the confirmed case.</p> <p>*Must be free of fever or symptoms for 24 hours without medication</p>

Protocol-K-12 Summary



Probable Case

Person tests Positive

Person tests Negative

Symptomatic Person

Isolate
Medical advice
Test recommended

Isolate for 10+ days
Symptom-based strategy

- Fever free for 72 hours and
- Symptoms have improved and
- 10 days since symptoms first appeared

Fever free 24 hours and

- Symptoms improved (back to usual health) with no use of medication

Close Contacts

No action while waiting for test result

Quarantine for 14 days from last date of exposure

No action

Return to School

Test Recommended

Documentation of positive test and isolation completed per CDC
Symptom free/fever with no meds for 72 hours

Documentation of negative test
Symptom free/fever with no meds for 24 hours

Resources



https://docs.google.com/document/d/18UeWvR6y_Eacbr7dasdWldSKataLVWulGCvu9CoTBcg/edit

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community/CFC_Guide_for_School_Administrators.pdf

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/developmental-behavioral-disorders.html>

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop.html>