

Carver Public Schools  
**Protocols for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios**  
Revised January 4, 2022

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On December 30, 2021 the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) in conjunction with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) released revised protocols for responding to COVID-19 situations in schools. The Carver Public Schools have developed following guidance based on the protocols released by DESE/DPH. All positive cases and close contacts outside of school should be reported to the school nurse. A member of the nursing staff or administration will always review the protocols with you and answer any questions you have related to any COVID-19 scenario.

**Protocol for an Individual who Test Positive for COVID-19:**

- A positive individual must self-isolate for a **minimum of 5 days** after symptom onset or after positive PCR or rapid test, if asymptomatic.
- A positive person may **return to school or work** after 5 days once they have:
  - Been without fever for 24 hours (and without taking fever-reducing medications); and
  - Experienced improvement in other symptoms.
  - A positive person **should not return** to school or work until they have met the above criteria.

**Definition of a close contact**

Close contacts are defined as individuals who have been within 6 feet of a COVID-19 positive individual while indoors, for at least 15 minutes during a 24-hour period. Please note that the at-risk exposure time begins 48 hours prior to symptom onset (or time of positive test if asymptomatic) and continues until the time the COVID-19 positive individual is isolated.

**Close contacts who are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols:**

- **Asymptomatic, fully vaccinated close contacts:** Individuals who are asymptomatic and fully vaccinated are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols.
- **Classroom close contacts:** An individual who is exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual in the classroom while both individuals were masked, so long as the individuals were spaced at least 3 feet apart, is exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols.
- **Bus close contacts:** Individuals on buses must be masked according to federal requirements. As such, individuals who are masked on buses when windows are open are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols.
- **Close contacts who have had COVID-19 within the past 90 days:** An individual who has been previously diagnosed with COVID-19 and then becomes a close contact of someone with COVID-19 is exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols if:
  - The exposure occurred within 90 days of the onset of their own illness; AND
  - The exposed individual is recovered and remains without COVID-19 symptoms.

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**If you are identified as a close contact and are not exempt for 1 of the 4 reasons listed above you have 3 options:**

- 1. If your close contact is the result of an exposure in school, you may participate in “Test and Stay”. Individuals who participate in “Test and Stay” are required to:**
  - Take a rapid antigen test on each school day and receive a negative result for 5 days from the date of exposure to the positive person. When the 5 days from date of exposure includes weekends or holidays, individuals should quarantine on weekends, and if they remain asymptomatic, upon return to school be tested immediately. If the individual remains negative, they can stay in school.
  - Remain asymptomatic.
  - Wear a mask in school at all times, other than when eating or drinking.
  - Conduct active monitoring for symptoms through day 10, and self-isolate at home if symptoms develop.
  
- 2. If your close contact is the result of an exposure outside of school OR if you choose not to participate in test and stay you must:**
  - Quarantine for 5 days from your last exposure to the positive person. Please note that if the positive case is in the student’s household, the quarantine period may be longer. Please contact the school nurse for guidance.
  - Remain asymptomatic.
  - Provide documentation of a negative PCR or rapid test on Day 5 or after to return to school.
  - Conduct active monitoring for symptoms for 10 days.
  
- 3. If you choose not to be tested you must:**
  - Quarantine for 10 days from your last exposure to the positive person.
  - You may return to school on Day 11 as long as you have remained asymptomatic.

As a reminder, to participate in the school’s testing program parents are required to provide consent in advance. If you have not done so already, we would encourage you to complete the consent process. Even if you do provide consent in advance, your student will never be tested without a phone call from one of the school nurses. The link to the consent is below. Once you click on the link select “Consent Now” and follow the prompts.

**Link to Consent:** <https://www.cic-health.com/consent/ma?district=Carver>