

Carver Public Schools  
**Protocols for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios**  
Revised February 15, 2022

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On February 9, 2022, Governor Baker and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Commissioner Jeff Riley, announced that the statewide mask mandate will be lifted as of February 28, 2022. On February 14, 2022 the Carver School Committee voted to make wearing a mask during the school day and at Carver Public School events optional for staff, students, and families once the mask mandate has been lifted as of February 28, 2022.

The wearing of masks are still required on school buses and in the nurses' offices per federal and state guidelines. The School Committee also voted to require masks for individuals who test positive for COVID-19 who are returning to school after 5 days of isolation following the protocols outlined below. DESE and the Department of Public Health (DPH) strongly recommend that students and staff also wear masks in certain situations.

**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.
- Following the five day isolation period it is **required** that the positive individual wears a mask for five additional days when around others other than when eating, drinking or outside. The individual will no longer be required to wear a mask once they are 10 days from symptom onset or after a positive test, if asymptomatic.

**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.
- **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.

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- **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.

**The district has opted in to making at-home antigen tests available for students and staff, therefore the school district will not be identifying close contacts in school. However, individuals still may be identified as close contacts outside of a school setting, i.e. an individual identified as a close contact to someone who tests positive in their household.**

**If you are identified as a close contact outside of school and are not exempt for 1 of the 3 reasons listed above you have 2 options:**

- 1. If your close contact is the result of an exposure outside of school:**
  - 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.
  - Following the five day quarantine period it is **strongly recommended** that the individual wear a mask for five additional days when around others other than when eating, drinking or outside.
  - Conduct active monitoring for symptoms for 10 days.
- 2. 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, the school does offer symptomatic testing of students during the school day. For a student to be tested at school, 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>