

Updated DESE COVID Protocols

January 2022

1. Positive Case

A. Symptomatic and Test Positive

1. Day 0 is day of onset of symptoms
2. Isolate for 5 days, return to school on day 6 provided your symptoms have improved and you are fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication
3. Must wear mask full time at school and at home for the remaining 5 days

B. Asymptomatic Positive Case (test positive but have no symptoms)

1. Day 0 is day of the positive test result
2. Isolate for 5 days and return on day 6 as long as you remain symptom free. For next 5 days, continue to wear mask and monitor for symptoms.

2. Close Contacts - Unvaccinated

If identified as a close contact in school you may participate in the test and stay program. This program is for unvaccinated students and staff only. Students are required to have parental consent. Find the link below

<https://www.cic-health.com/consent/ma?district=Westford>

The Test and Stay program runs for 5 days from exposure. When day 5 occurs over a weekend or holiday, students should continue to quarantine at home and report to Test and Stay on the next school day to confirm eligibility to attend school.

If you choose not to participate in the Test and Stay program, you will need to stay out of school for 5 days and may return on day 6 provided you are symptom free.

*Best practice would also include an antigen or PCR test on day 5 after exposure. An antigen test may be self-administered and does not need to be proctored or performed by a healthcare provider.

3. Close Contacts - Vaccinated

Vaccinated/Boostered individuals are exempt from quarantine but should monitor for symptoms for 10 days after exposure. If at any time you become symptomatic, you must seek testing (antigen or PCR) and isolate until you get results.

Close contacts who have tested positive for COVID within 90 days are also exempt from quarantine but should also monitor for symptoms and test accordingly.

*It is highly recommended to test on day 5 (home antigen is acceptable) after exposure regardless of vaccination status.

Don't hesitate to reach out to your school nurse

with any questions or concerns.