



BRIDGEWATER-RAYNHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HEALTH SERVICES

COVID-19 Close Contact Response Protocol

Per DESE/MDPH guidelines collaboratively issued July 2020, and revised December 2020, and April 2021, B-R's **Close Contact** criteria has been updated to align with current DESE/MDPH recommendations.

Definition of Close Contact:

If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, their close contacts will be defined as **only those who have been within 6 feet of distance of the individual for at least 15 minutes over a 24 hour period, while the person was infectious.** The infectious period begins 2 days prior to symptom onset. If someone is asymptomatic, the infectious period is considered to begin 2 days prior to the collection of their positive test. While previous guidance stated that all students in an elementary classroom would be defined as close contacts, this new guidance provides a narrower definition of a close contact which mirrors DPH guidance.¹

Updated guidelines effective immediately for **covid-19 exposure during an individual's infectious period, within the classroom and on the bus where mask wearing was in place, define close contacts as only those individuals who were exposed to an infectious covid-19 individual within 3ft or less for 15 minutes or more over 24 hours. This does not apply to "outside" classroom or bus activity such as sports, lunch, extracurricular activity or exposure where both parties were not wearing masks.**¹

Policy of when a close contact may return to school:

All close contacts should be tested but **must self-quarantine for 10 days after the last exposure to the person who tested positive,** regardless of test result. After further consultation with the medical community, we are updating this guidance as the virus can cause illness from 2-14 days after exposure and even asymptomatic individuals can transmit the virus. Going forward, even if an individual identified as a close contact receives a negative test result, they must continue to self-quarantine for the full 10 days after last date of exposure and actively monitor for symptoms for 14 days as the virus may take up to 14 days to cause illness.¹

Exemptions to this protocol are as follows:

- Individuals 14 days post complete covid-19 vaccination, but prior to 91 days post vaccination. CDC Vaccination Record Card documentation is required. As more research evolves regarding how long immunity from the vaccine last, this period of immunity may get extended.²³
- Individuals who tested covid-19 positive within 90 days of date of exposure. Medical documentation required.

Household Contacts as Close Contacts:

In determining any quarantine period, you must determine the contact's last exposure to the infectious person. That is Day Zero. When the close contact to a positive individual includes a household contact, extended days result. The final 10 days of quarantine cannot occur until the last day of exposure to the infectious covid-19 individual has occurred. This extension is as a result of continued exposure during the 10-day infectious or contagious period of the virus. The 10-day quarantine period may begin **the day after** the 10th day with the infected household member or **the day after** ending exposure through

¹ <https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/protocols/>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>

³ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

alternative residential separation etc. That day becomes the last day of exposure and allows for quarantine to begin.⁴ Close Contact quarantine exemptions apply.

- 1) Upon notification of school attendance, by test confirmed Covid-19 positive individual reported by Bridgewater Board of Health, Raynham Board of Health or Parent, nurse shall immediately initiate close contact response
 - a) Notify school building administrator of response initiation
 - b) Notify BOH if not original source of report, that school close contact response has been initiated
 - c) Immediately obtain current seating chart
 - i) Classroom
 - ii) Bus
 - iii) Lunch
 - iv) Recess
 - v) P.E.
 - vi) Afterschool attendance
- 2) Determine school related close contact(s) as defined by DESE/DPH
- 3) Call student(s)/Staff to Medical Waiting Room for immediate dismissal and start of quarantine
- 4) Notify student's parent/guardian by phone of close contact status, need for dismissal and quarantine, instructions and criteria for return
- 5) Provide student with copy of BR Close Contact communication sheet
- 6) Document student/staff encounter with required tracking dates, exposure source and BOH contact
 - a) Complete MA Close Contact form (provided by BOH)
- 7) Follow up with close contacts on day 4-5 by phone
 - a) Refer close contact students who develop symptoms, to medical provider for testing
- 8) Collaboratively determine with School Officials and BOH how the current positive COVID-19 notification affects need for Massachusetts Rapid Response for Mobile testing (potential cluster, asymptomatic discovery)
 - a) if 2 or more students/staff within the classroom group develop COVID-19 within 14 days and transmission/exposure occurred in the classroom
 - b) if more than 3% of the cohort/grade (at least 3 individuals) develop COVID-19 within 14 days and transmission/exposure occurred in the school
 - c) if more than 3% of the school develops COVID-19 within 14 days and there is evidence of transmission within the school
 - d) if 3 or more staff within the same school develop COVID-19 within 14 days and there is evidence of transmission among staff
 - e) if 2 or more students on the bus develop COVID-19 within 14 days
 - i) Mobile Response Team must be requested by School Administrator or BOH **after consulting with MDPH epidemiologist**⁵

TOGETHER, WE ARE BR STRONG!

⁴ http://www.maventrainingsite.com/maven-help/pdf/December%2023_K12%20School%20Nurse%20COVID-19%20Training.pdf

⁵ <http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/2020-0819dese-dph-joint-memo.docx>