

A. Health and Safety Actions

- Appropriate signage located throughout the school on Symptoms of COVID-19, Stopping the spread of germs, how to protect yourself and others, and Handwashing.
- Staff and students will adhere to effective/frequent handwashing for a minimum of 20 seconds. If hand washing is not available, hand sanitizer containing 60% alcohol should be used.
 - All classrooms and shops should have hand sanitizer.
 - Handwashing should occur at a minimum upon arrival to school, before and after meals, before putting on and taking off masks, after bathroom use, after coughing or sneezing, and before dismissal.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately with soap and water or hand sanitizer. All classrooms and shops should have boxes of tissues. If tissues are not available, cough/sneeze into shirtsleeve at the bend of the arm.
- **Face masks Effective August 25, 2021, until *at least* October 1, 2021:**
 - All students and staff are required to wear a mask/face covering in school regardless of vaccination status.
 - Face masks are to be worn on the bus at all times whether vaccinated or not. Students will NOT be allowed on the school bus or school vehicle if they are not wearing a face mask.
 - Masks are required when staff and students are indoors, except when eating, drinking, or during mask breaks.
 - Parents/guardians will be responsible for providing students with face masks.
 - Back up disposable masks will be provided to students who need them. Families experiencing financial hardship and unable to afford face masks are encouraged to contact Student Support Services.
 - Staff and students should be instructed to daily launder face covering unless they were using a disposable mask. Laundering is based on [CDC guidelines](#).
 - Face masks are required to be worn in the Nurses' Suite and Athletic training room.
 - Individuals will have mask breaks throughout the day. Breaks will occur ideally when people can be 6ft apart and ideally outside or at least with the window open.
 - Weather permitting, school windows and shop windows/doors should be open during the school day while keeping the safety of the staff/students in mind.
 - Masks are required for any sports-related activity for student athletes and coaches when indoors.
 - All visitors must wear a face mask when entering the school regardless of vaccination status.
 - Face mask *exemptions*:
 - For staff or students who cannot wear a mask for medical reasons.
 - Any student who cannot wear a mask for behavioral reasons.
 - Face shields may be an option for students with medical or behavioral needs.
 - Transparent masks may be an option for both teachers and students in class for deaf and hard of hearing students.
- If seeing the nurses or Nurse practitioner, face masks are to be worn. If you do not have a face mask, a surgical disposable mask will be provided. Additional safety precautions are required for the school nurses and SBHC nurse practitioner when testing for Covid-19 using the rapid antigen BinaxNOW nasal swab test.
 - These precautions include eye protection (face shield or goggles) in addition to a face mask.
 - Gloves and disposable gowns are to be worn when testing student/staff for Covid-19 and when handling bodily fluids.
- N-95 respirators are reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders, as recommended by current CDC guidance. Staff/students should not be wearing N-95 masks.

B. Staff and student monitoring

- Staff/students will not be formally screened upon entry to school.
- Once staff/students enter the school they are required to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer provided by the school (containing 60% alcohol).
- Staff/students will be instructed not to come to school if they have a temperature $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$ before school, and/or symptoms including Cough, Shortness of breath or Difficulty Breathing, Fever, Chills, Muscle pain, Sore throat, and New loss of taste or smell. Other less common symptoms are Nausea, Vomiting, or Diarrhea. If any of these symptoms are present before school, **DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL. WHEN IN DOUBT STAY HOME.**

C. Health line

- The nurses' office will be open for telephone triage from 6:15am – 7:15am for staff and parents questioning symptoms and whether they should go to school. Call 508-529-7758, ext. 3006.
- For those staff/families when calling at 6:15am is too late, leave a voice message and your call will be returned by one of the school nurses.
- If staff/student has a fever $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$ and/or cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea the person might have COVID-19. **DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL. WHEN IN DOUBT STAY HOME.**

D. Nurse notification of staff/student coming to nurses office.

- All EMERGENCIES are to go to the nurses' office immediately. These include injuries, diabetic issues, nose bleeds, and anything that requires immediate assessment.
- *Sick student:* should a student need to see one of the school nurses, the staff member should call the nurses office to alert them. The staff member will be advised which entrance the student will come in. Hall passes are no longer accepted to the nurse office.
- *Sick staff:* staff are to stay where they are, call your supervisor, call the nurses office for further instruction.

E. Nurses' Suite

- The two doorways into the nurses' suite will be labeled 1 and 3.
- No staff/student will be allowed in either of the nurses private offices.
- School nurse will evaluate student to determine if they are experiencing NON COVID or COVID/Flu like symptoms.
- NON COVID like symptoms include routine daily medication, medication for headaches, emergency visits, and diabetic student check-ins.
 - Students requiring daily medication and/or diabetic check-ins will enter nurses' suite through the SBHC, Door 3.
 - Students with anxiety should be sent to guidance. They should not be exposed to germs needlessly.
 - Further evaluation will occur in the exam/treatment room. Once visit completed they will be advised to exit nurses' suite through door 3 (SBHC).
- Individuals with COVID/Flu like symptoms will be moved to the Care Center room.
 - This area will provide isolation of students during assessment by school nurse or SBH nurse practitioner.
 - School nurses &/or SBH nurse practitioner will wear appropriate PPE during their assessment of student.
 - Care Center room is located within the nurses' suite, separated by a washable barrier that runs floor to ceiling. The isolation room has a door. The Care Center contains a separate bathroom as well as a Hepa air purifier.
 - Student will remain in the Care Center room until a parent/guardian is able to pick up in a timely manner.

- School nurse will communicate to the BRC when these students are dismissed.
 - Student will exit school through ANNEX doors to minimize walking through the school.
 - Student will be dismissed with a letter of instructions for parent/guardian on next steps.
- Seating in nurses' suite will be spaced at a minimum of 3ft apart for social distancing. All students will continue to wear face masks in nurses' suite, even if they are not feeling ill.
- The number of students in the nurses' suite will be kept to a minimum.
- Visits to the nurses' office will be brief, however, still allow for assessment, intervention, and evaluation of the student.
- Student rest area will be utilized for those who require a longer period of observation time in the nurses' office. Rest area bed and one chair will be at a minimum of 6ft apart and divided by a curtain.
 - Rest area is reserved for those with *NON respiratory or gastrointestinal symptoms* such as headache, migraine, heat exhaustion, burns, and/or injuries.

F. Cleaning and disinfecting of nurses suite

- Wall mounted hand sanitizer are located outside of both nurses private offices, outside the bathroom within the Care Center and outside the nurse examination room.
- Containers of hand sanitizers are in each of the 3 nurses private offices.
- Seating and beds are to be cleaned after each use with EPA approved disinfectants.
- Care Center room will be cleaned by facilities after the student has been dismissed. Facilities will wear appropriate PPE and use approved EPA disinfectants per protocol.
- After school hours the entire nurses' suite will be cleaned/disinfected daily by the facilities dept.

G. Definitions

1. Close Contact:
 - You are a close contact to a COVID-19 positive individual if you were within 6 feet of them while indoors, for at least 15 minutes in a 24-hour period while they were *symptomatic* or within the 48 hours before symptom onset or time of a positive test if asymptomatic.
 - According to CDC guidance, individuals are less likely to be exposed to COVID-19 during outdoor activities, even without the use of masks.
2. Self isolation:
 - You isolate when you have been infected with the virus, even if you do not have symptoms.
 - Instructions for how to self-isolate can be found [here](#).
3. Quarantine:
 - You quarantine when you have been identified as a close contact to a covid positive individual
 - Instructions for how to quarantine can be found [here](#).

H. Scenarios

- a. Student or Staff test **positive** for COVID-19
 - Will be advised on instructions for quarantine.
 - Parent/guardian or staff member will notify Nurses office of positive test.
 - Nurses office will notify the Board of health from the town the student/staff are from. An administrator will also be notified of COVID positive case.
 - Contact tracing
 - Determine if staff/student was at school **2days prior** to symptom onset OR if asymptomatic, they tested positive
 - Based on seating charts identify staff/students who were in close contact (6ft for > 15 minutes, cumulative in 24hr period) of COVID positive staff/student. This will be called a contact cohort.
 - Communication from the school will be sent to families/staff who are a close contact to the positive individual.
 - Follow school protocol for closing off area, clean/disinfecting.

- b. Middle of school day NOTIFICATION of COVID-19 positive case
 - Create contact/cohort list. Staff/students who were in close contact with positive case and were at school **2days prior** to positive case's symptom onset. Individuals who are fully vaccinated and are asymptomatic do not have to quarantine.
 - Ensure this cohort group, who are not fully vaccinated, are wearing face coverings, enforce hand washing.
 - Communication from the school will be sent to families/staff of positive test
 - Parent/guardian will be advised to pick up student. Students will not be allowed to ride the bus or drive home with another student unless that student is a sibling.
- c. Student is symptomatic on the bus
 - If the bus driver notices symptoms of COVID as student is getting on the bus and there is a care giver present, the bus driver can refuse for the student to get on the bus.
 - If the student is already on the bus; ensure the student keeps their face covering on.
 - The bus driver should notify their dispatch of a possible symptomatic student.
 - The dispatch will notify the school nurses office.
 - The school nurse will meet the bus as it arrives, and the student will exit the bus first.
 - The student will be brought to the Nurses' suite and follow protocol for "COVID/Flu like symptoms".
 - If further evaluation shows the student does not have symptoms, the student will be sent to homeroom.
- d. Multiple cases in school
 - If there is more than one confirmed COVID-19 case (staff/student) in the school at one time, OR if there is a series of single cases in a short time span the administration and the school nurses should work with local boards of health from appropriate town to determine if there is transmission happening in school.
 - For suspected in-school transmission (beyond one cohort or a small number of cohorts) the school administrators and nurses **MUST** consult with local board of health from appropriate town or proposed next steps.
 - **Before a final decision is made on school closure, the superintendent must consult with DESE for further guidance.**

I. Monitor and Plan for absenteeism

- The nurses' office will review the staff/student absentee list daily.
 - A call to staff or parent will occur for those absent > 3 consecutive days.
 - Any student who will be out of school >5 days for medical reasons will be referred to the extended leave program.
 - While maintaining confidentiality, local BOH will be notified if a large increase in absenteeism is seen in the school due to respiratory illness.

J. When there is no community transmission (preparedness phase)

- Reinforce healthy practices among staff/students.

Reference

[DESE](#)