

TO: All Staff
FROM: Dr. Brenda Cassellius, Superintendent
Sam Depina, Deputy Superintendent of Operations
SUBJECT: BPS protocols for staff who test positive for COVID-19
DATE: January 5, 2022

In collaboration with the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) and review of the [DESE/DPH Protocols for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios - SY 2021-22](#), we are updating BPS isolation protocols for **staff** who test positive for COVID-19. **This new isolation guidance pertains only to staff.** We will provide more rapid antigen tests to schools for staff to use at schools when they return to prove a negative test. Students should continue to isolate for 10 days and we will monitor the changes for staff and if/when it may be appropriate to make these changes for our students.

Overview of Protocol Categories:

Protocol A-1 for FULLY VACCINATED individuals who test positive

Protocol A-2 for UNVACCINATED individuals who test positive

Protocol A-1 for FULLY VACCINATED¹ staff members who test positive

Duration: Self-isolation for COVID-19 positive cases is a minimum of **5 days** after first positive viral test, if asymptomatic and fully vaccinated.

Return to school: After **5 days** and once they have:

- Been without fever for 24 hours (without taking fever-reducing medications); and,
- Experienced improvement in other symptoms.
- A negative rapid antigen test taken on or after day 5.
- Following the 5-day isolation period, individuals must consistently wear a well-fitting mask for 5 additional days when around others (until 10 days after the first positive test date).

Notes:

- Return to school should be based on time and symptom resolution.
- If an individual tests positive as part of a group pooled test, the isolation period begins the day the group pooled test returned a positive result.
- If an individual cannot consistently wear a well-fitting mask, they must isolate until 10 days after the first positive test date.

¹ At this time, fully vaccinated is defined as two-weeks following the completion of the Pfizer or Moderna series or two-weeks following a single dose of Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine.



Protocol A-2 for **NOT FULLY VACCINATED** staff members who test positive

Duration: Self-isolation for COVID-19 positive cases is a minimum of **7 days** after first positive viral test, if asymptomatic.

Return to school: After 7 days once they have:

- Been without fever for 24 hours (without taking fever-reducing medications); and,
- Experienced improvement in other symptoms.
- A negative rapid antigen test taken on or after day 5.
- Following the 7-day isolation period, individuals must consistently wear a well-fitting mask for 3 additional days when around others, until 10 days after the first positive test date.

Notes:

- Return to school should be based on time and symptom resolution.
- If an individual tests positive as part of a group pooled test, the isolation period begins the day the group pooled test returned a positive result.
- If an individual cannot consistently wear a well-fitting mask, they must isolate until 10 days after the first positive test date.