



HOLYOKE COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL

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Dear parents, caregivers, and guardians,

I am writing to inform you that a person in our school community has tested positive for COVID-19 and your child was a close contact of the community member. A close contact is defined as only those who have been within 6 feet of distance of the individual for at least fifteen minutes, in other school spaces, on the bus, or at an extracurricular activity.

We strongly encourage you to have your child tested and to please report the results to your school nurse. We are working hard to understand the impact of the virus on our school community and this information is a critical piece of that puzzle. However, if you would prefer not to have your child tested, he/she/they will be required to remain home in self-quarantine for 14 days from exposure, (INSERT DATE OF EXPOSURE). We are also following all Department of Health protocols, including collaborating with our local board of health to complete contact tracing.

Our first responsibility is to keep our students and staff safe. We have been planning for this scenario during our reopening planning process. We have a comprehensive plan in place and will continue to sanitize the school and inform other families whose students were at risk of exposure or in close contact. We cannot provide specific information about the school community member involved, but we are also working with his/her/their family as they navigate this stressful experience. Our student body and staff have been closely adhering to the safety protocols including mask wearing, hand washing, and physical distancing. We are grateful to our families for their continued efforts to keep students home at the first sign of symptoms. These measures, taken in combination, greatly reduce the risk of additional transmission.

If a school community member who was a close contact tests negative, he/she/they must still remain home in self-quarantine for 14 days from exposure, (INSERT DATE OF EXPOSURE).

If a school community member who was a close contact tests positive, he/she/they may return to school after 10 days of isolation, if he/she/they:

1. have gone for 24 hours without a fever (without taking fever-reducing medications like Tylenol); and
2. have experienced improvement in other symptoms (for example, their cough has gotten much better); and
3. have received clearance from public health authority contact tracers (the local board of health or Community Tracing Collaborative).

To further prevent transmission of the virus to other staff and students, we have sanitized the school with a focus on those areas frequented by the community member that tested positive. We will continue to be vigilant in adhering to all of the protocols that have been put in place in an effort to continue in person learning. We are also providing remote learning for all students required to quarantine at home to continue to provide instruction,

structure, and an emotional connection to the classroom during a time that we know will be challenging for those children and families involved. We have been sharing remote learning options with students in advance of our first positive case in hopes that they will understand that this process is designed to keep everyone in our community safe, as opposed to assuming that they have contracted the virus.

For more information on COVID-19 symptoms and testing, visit: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/about-covid-19-testing#where-can-get-a-test?>.

You can also find a map of testing sites at

<https://memamaps.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=eba3f0395451430b9f631cb095febf13>.

Please contact us immediately should you or someone in your home begin to show symptoms.

We are committed to continuous communication with and support of our families. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact (INSERT STAFF NAME) at (EMAIL/PHONE). If there is additional transmission as a result of this case or a separate case, we will send out another message immediately. Thank you for your continued support.