



The Public Schools of Brookline

Brookline Town Hall

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Tricia Laham
MEd, BSN, RN
Coordinator of School
Health Services

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On behalf of the school nurses, I want to express our hope the beginning of this school year has been a positive experience for you and your child. We have created these [flow charts](#), which we hope will provide a clear and concise reference to COVID-19 scenarios and our communication plans.

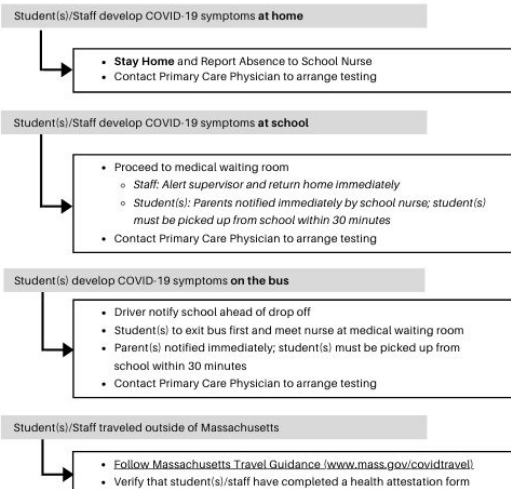
COVID-19 RETURN TO SCHOOL PROCEDURES



SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19

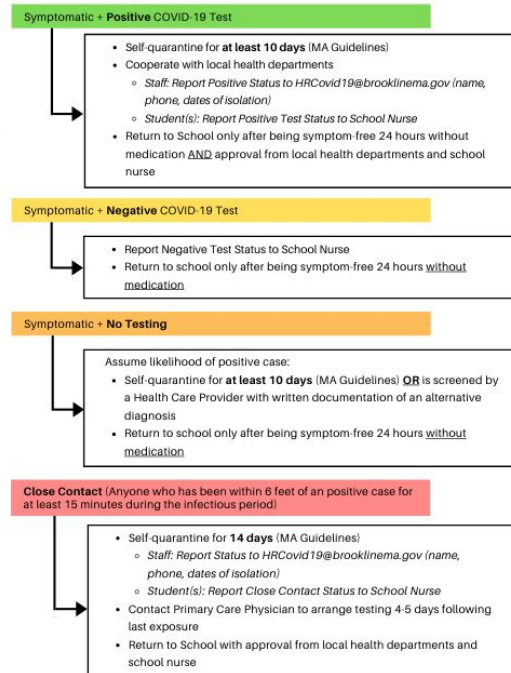
- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fever (100F or higher) chills, or shaking chills | <input type="checkbox"/> Headache (In combination with other symptoms) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cough (Not due to other known causes) | <input type="checkbox"/> Fatigue (In combination with other symptoms) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath | <input type="checkbox"/> Nasal congestion/Runny Nose (Not due to other known causes, such as allergies + in combination with other symptoms) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New loss of taste or smell | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sore throat | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Muscle aches or body aches | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea | |

POTENTIAL SCENARIOS



TESTING/CONTACT TRACING

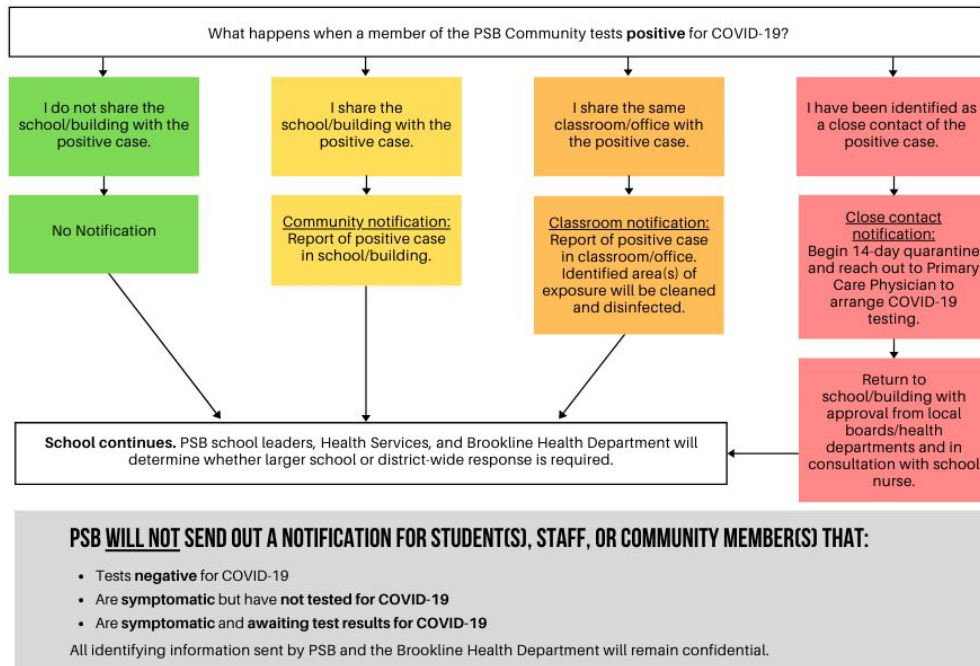
Student(s)/Staff cannot return to school while awaiting COVID-19 test results



COVID-19 RETURN TO SCHOOL PROCEDURES



REPORTING/NOTIFICATION



MC/JSC 9/23/20

For the 2020-21 school year, PSB will follow a different set of procedures with regards to attendance and student health:

- Mild symptoms will now prevent children from going to school. **If your child displays ANY symptoms of COVID-19 listed above, please keep them home and disclose this information to the school nurse as soon as possible.**
- Healthcare providers should be consulted even if COVID-19 symptoms are mild.
- Students can no longer “stick it out” at school. Parents and emergency contacts must be prepared to pick-up children from school if they receive a call from the school nurse. Please ensure that your contact information is up-to-date so that the process can be completed quickly and safely.

Please remember that PSB requires you to assess your child for symptoms every morning before school (including a temperature check) and keep them home if they are sick. If you have not completed a student health attendance agreement, you may do so here:

(www.brookline.k12.ma.us/attendance)

DESE's guidance states that "in order to protect schools from the introduction of COVID, **testing of symptomatic individuals should be the default practice.** Students with acute onset of new symptoms (especially respiratory symptoms such as cough, shortness of breath, sore throat) or fever should almost always receive a negative COVID test before returning to school. Health care providers have clinical discretion to consider chronic illnesses or symptoms such as headache and abdominal or gastrointestinal symptoms and use clinical judgment to defer testing when an alternative cause is firmly established". This would typically require the health care provider to see and evaluate an individual. Our school nurses will adhere to these guidelines.

In the case of school absence, please remember to call the school and explain why your child is not coming to school, give symptoms your child is experiencing, or if they are absent for other reasons. Following this process will ensure nurses will provide the information they need to contact you appropriately with next steps.

It is important to note that as a school district and as a community, we need to work together. All of us have a role to play in creating a safe environment to remain open and welcoming more students back into our schools. We appreciate your commitment to *your* position in keeping sick children home from school and doing all you can to promote a safe and sustained return to school.

Sincerely,

Tricia Laham MEd, BSN, RN
Coordinator of School Health Services