

UPDATED AFTER SCHOOL HOURS CONTACT TRACING PROTOCOL

With the new DESE sponsored Test and Stay (T&S) option for close contacts to a positive case of COVID-19, many more students are able to remain in school during their quarantine period. As a result, the urgency for contact tracing outside of the school day has changed.

Background:

The previous practice included notification by a parent/guardian of a positive case of COVID-19 to a teacher, administrator, or, sometimes directly, a nurse. A nurse then began an often lengthy process of after-hours contact tracing (which required conversations with school staff and students' families in order to identify close contacts) and then notified families of students identified as close contacts instructing them to stay home from school. Now that consented-to and asymptomatic students have access to T&S, the process of contact tracing after school hours has been updated.

Updated after school hours contact tracing:

If there is a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 (PCR test or clinic observed rapid antigen test) and it is after school hours, families should email the school nurse. **Contact tracing will not occur until the next school day.**

The school nurse will notify our district testing coordinator, and/or MCG Project Manager, of the need for CIC support for T&S BinaxNow tests, once contact tracing has been completed.

Without consent for testing, students must follow traditional quarantine, returning to school on day 8, if a negative Covid test on day 5 or later is obtained, or return on day 11 without a PCR test.

Limited after hours contact tracing will occur under special circumstances such as if a suspected cluster should emerge.

SATURDAY/SUNDAY/HOLIDAYS: The Brookline Health Department in conjunction with the Community Tracing Collaborative (CTC) will resume contact tracing on weekends. School Nurses will still be responsible for in-school contact tracing which will occur the following school day, when staff and specialists can be consulted, in making determination of close contacts in the school setting. If these close contacts are asymptomatic and if there is consent on file, the close contacts may remain in school and T&S will be arranged, as noted above.

Consultation: The nurses can consult with Jill Seaman-Chandler, Debra Troderman, or Tricia Laham as needed.

TL 10/8.2021