

# BOLTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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December 13, 2021

Dear Families and Staff,

On November 12, 2021 I shared with you that the Bolton Public Schools had implemented the *Screen and Stay* protocol and would continue to do so unless conditions with in-school or community transmission indicated the need to return to traditional quarantine procedures. After consultation this evening with the Eastern Highlands Health District with regards to rising COVID-19 case rates in our schools and our community, the Bolton Public Schools is returning to traditional quarantine procedures effective immediately.

Students, teachers, and staff should stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care.

When a case of COVID-19 is identified in a student or school staff person, contact tracing begins immediately. Contact tracing for COVID-19 is the process of identifying the close contacts of a person who has been diagnosed with COVID-19. A person diagnosed with COVID-19 (i.e., a COVID-19 case) is considered infectious from 2 days prior to symptom onset (or the date of the test if no symptoms) until they start isolation.

The definition of a close contact is a person who has spent at least 15 minutes (within 24 hours) within 6 feet of a person diagnosed with COVID-19 during their infectious period, or a direct exposure to possibly infected droplets of saliva or nasal mucus (e.g., being sneezed on or coughed on in the face). CDC has created an exception to this definition specifically for students solely in the classroom setting. For students in a classroom setting exposed to another student, if both the case and contacts are all consistently and correctly wearing masks, the definition of close contact is spending a total of 15 minutes (within 24 hours) within 3 feet of a student with COVID-19. **This exception ONLY applies to students in the classroom setting who are also wearing masks.** It does not apply to adults, nor to students outside the classroom setting. As always, decisions related to the need for isolation or quarantine will be made in consultation with local public health officials on a case-by-case basis.

## **Unvaccinated People Exposed to COVID-19**

Individuals who are not fully vaccinated, are without symptoms, and are identified as a close contact to a positive case must stay at home for 10 days since last exposure and may return to school on day 11, if symptom free. However, daily symptom monitoring is necessary for an additional 4 days (days 11–14). Close contacts that develop symptoms should isolate, get tested, contact the school nurse, and healthcare provider. If the student participates in athletics or other school sponsored extra-

curricular activities, the student may return to school on day 11, if symptom free. The student can only return to athletics or other school sponsored extra-curricular activities on day 11, if the student has a negative PCR or antigen SARS-CoV-2 test on day 8 or later that must be administered by a state licensed clinical laboratory, pharmacy-based testing provider, or other healthcare provider facility and the test results must be reported to the school nurse. Without a negative COVID-19 test result provided to the school nurse, the student cannot participate in athletics or other school sponsored extra-curricular activities until day 15.

**Fully Vaccinated People with Exposure to Someone with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19**

Fully vaccinated people who have come into close contact with someone with COVID-19 should be tested 5-7 days following the date of their exposure and wear a mask in indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result. They should isolate for 10 days if they test positive. Fully vaccinated people should monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days.

**Fully Vaccinated People with COVID-19 Symptoms**

Any vaccinated person who experiences symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should isolate themselves from others, be evaluated by their medical provider, and tested with a PCR or antigen SARS-CoV-2 test. If the test result is positive, they should isolate at home for 10 days.

The Bolton Public Schools continues to implement layered prevention strategies to protect students, teachers, staff, and other members of their households to support in-person learning.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Stay safe and be well,

*Kristin B. Heckt*

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Superintendent of Schools