



DRACUT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2063 Lakeview Avenue
Dracut, Massachusetts 01826
Phone: (978) 957-2660 Fax: (978) 957-2682
www.dracutps.org

Steven Stone
Superintendent of Schools

April 28, 2021

Re: COVID Update

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As we fully reopen the Richardson Middle School today and prepare for the full reopening of Dracut High School on Monday, May 3rd, I am writing to provide an update on revised guidance from the state regarding the identification of close contacts.

As provided by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services after consultation with the Governor's Medical Advisory Board on COVID-19 and other medical advisors, the following procedures are now in place in our schools:

CLOSE CONTACTS: Close contacts who were exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual in a classroom or on a bus while both individuals were masked **do not have to quarantine unless they were within 3 feet of distance of the COVID-19 positive individual for a total of 15 minutes during a 24-hour period.** This does not apply if someone was identified as a close contact outside of the classroom or bus (e.g., in sports, extra-curriculars, lunch, etc.) or if masks are not worn by both persons at the time of the exposure.

A "close contact" remains someone who was within 6 feet of a COVID-19 positive individual for a total of 15 minutes during a 24-hour period. With the new guidance, our schools will continue to notify all close contacts.

For those contacts determined to have been within 6 feet but not closer than 3 feet for a total of 15 minutes during a 24-hour period, the notice will indicate that students **do not have to quarantine.** The state continues to urge parents of close contacts who do not need to quarantine to nonetheless have their child tested.

For those close contacts determined to have been within 3 feet of an individual who has tested positive for 15 minutes during a 24-hour period, **quarantining is still required.** As described above, this new guidance applies to exposure in a classroom or on a school bus only.

PROCESS RELATED TO VACCINATED AND/OR RECOVERED INDIVIDUALS: The state has also provided guidance for individuals who have been vaccinated and for individuals who had previously tested positive for COVID-19:

- Individuals who are **fully** vaccinated do not need to quarantine or get tested as long as they do not show any symptoms. Individuals are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their second dose of a two-dose series (Pfizer or Moderna) or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine (Johnson & Johnson).¹
- An individual who had confirmed COVID-19 (diagnosed by a positive PCR test) and then becomes a close contact of someone with COVID-19 may not need to quarantine if:
 - i. The exposure is within 90 days of the onset of their own illness **and**
 - ii. The exposed individual is recovered and remains without COVID symptoms.

If you have any questions about the new process for identifying close contacts, please feel free to contact a building principal or a school nurse. As always, if you have any questions about the district's approach to the ongoing health emergency, please feel free to contact me directly.

#MIDDIEPRIDE

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Stone". The signature is stylized with large, flowing letters.

Steven Stone
Superintendent of Schools
