



**CITY OF PEABODY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
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**BOARD OF HEALTH**  
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DIRECTOR

October 8, 2020

Dear Peabody School Community:

Please refer to the information in this letter if a member of the Peabody Public School community has tested positive for COVID-19. **This letter provides information for those who members of our school community who are NOT close contacts.** The details of when the individual that tested positive was last on-site at the school will be shared with that school community by the building Principal.

In accordance with guidance issued by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education <http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/>, close contacts are defined as only those who have been within 6 feet of distance of the positive individual for at least fifteen minutes, while the person was infectious. Through contact tracing efforts, those students and staff who have been identified by the Peabody Health Department and Peabody School Department as close contacts will be following up with testing and quarantining as required by statewide public health protocols before returning to school. Those close contacts have been notified directly by a Public Health Nurse through a telephone call. In addition, the affected areas of the school will be deep cleaned and disinfected in accordance with CDC protocols before returning to use.

**Your student is not considered to be a close contact of the positive individual, and is not required to be tested or quarantined.** However, we ask you to continue to monitor your child for symptoms of COVID-19 each day before reporting to school. These symptoms include:

- Fever (100.0° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills
- Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Headache *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Muscle aches or body aches
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Fatigue, *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies) *when in combination with other symptoms*

Although your child is not a close contact of the individual with the positive test result, you may wish to speak to your primary care provider and follow any guidance they provide. If you wish to have your child tested for COVID-19, you can visit <https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-testing> to find a testing site near you.

We understand that this news may be concerning to you, and we encourage you to contact the Peabody Health Department if you have additional questions. We can be reached at 978-538-5926.

Many people are feeling higher levels of stress during this pandemic, and we encourage you to use the City of Peabody's free INTERFACE Helpline if you would like to be connected to behavioral health support during this challenging time. The number for INTERFACE is 888-244-6843; you can also find more information at

<https://www.peabody-ma.gov/health/interface-peabody-english-110519.pdf>

<https://www.peabody-ma.gov/health/interface-peabody-portuguese-110519.pdf>

<https://www.peabody-ma.gov/health/interface-peabody-espanol-110519.pdf>.

Thank you for your cooperation and best wishes for continued good health for you and your family.

Sincerely,



Sharon Cameron  
Director of Health  
City of Peabody



Josh Vadala, Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
Peabody Public Schools