



CITY OF PEABODY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
24 Lowell Street
Peabody, Massachusetts 01960
(978) 538-5926
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BOARD OF HEALTH
THOMAS J. DURKIN III, CHAIRPERSON
ANTHONY CARLI
JULIA FLEET, D.O.

SHARON CAMERON
DIRECTOR

September 3, 2021

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 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 those individuals who have been within 6 feet of a COVID-19 positive individual while indoors, for at least 15 minutes during a 24-hour period, while the person was infectious.¹

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 cleaned and disinfected in accordance with CDC protocols.

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
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell
- Muscle aches or body aches
- Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
- Sore throat, when in combination with other symptoms
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea when in combination with other symptoms
- Headache when in combination with other symptoms
- 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

¹ There are some exemptions to quarantining requirements for close contacts who have been fully vaccinated, those who were within 3-6 feet of the infected person while both were wearing masks, those who were exposed while on a school bus with windows open, or those who were previously diagnosed with COVID.



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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