

COVID-19 Policies and Procedures Lesley Ellis School

****These policies and procedures will be updated as additional recommendations, information, and testing becomes available. Last updated: 2/28/22. Changes in red.**

The purpose for these policies and procedures is to mitigate the risk of contracting COVID-19 for everyone in the Lesley Ellis Community. Lesley Ellis School **will continue to develop policies which will incorporate guidance** set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Policies will be reviewed and updated as necessary.

Before Coming to School

Before coming to school, we ask that **you assess your child for any COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, sore throat, headache, etc.). If your child is not feeling well, we ask that you keep your child at home and administer an at-home rapid antigen test and contact Nurse Joe Ryan.**

Travel Safety

Follow the guidelines on the Centers for Disease Control website when you travel domestically or internationally.

For Domestic Travel:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html>

For International Travel:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/international-travel-during-covid19.html>

Entering the Building

As parents are allowed to enter the building for certain activities, they first must send a copy or photo of their vaccination card to Nurse Joe Ryan.

Handwashing

Students and staff will wash their hands on a regular basis including but not limited to the following times:

- Upon entering the building/arrival to school
- Before snack and lunch
- After using the bathroom

Hands will be washed with soap and water at the above times listed. Hand sanitizer will also be readily available to students and staff. Students are also welcome to bring their own hand sanitizer if families prefer to do so.

Physical Distancing

Lesley Ellis School will follow guidance from the CDC regarding physical distancing.

When indoors, students will continue to follow physical distancing guidelines. Windows will be opened as often as possible to encourage ventilation.

Masks**

Masks covering the mouth and nose will be worn **inside** at all times during the day by both faculty, students, **and anyone else entering the building** with several exceptions. Exceptions to wearing a mask are below:

- When eating or drinking
- Designated mask breaks
- Rest times for early childhood students when sleeping

When outside, mask wearing is optional.

Students and faculty are required to provide their own well-fitting KN95, N95, or 3-layered surgical mask. (If a mask is not well-fitting, individuals will be required to wear an additional mask.) Students should bring at least two back-up masks each day. Extra surgical masks will be available in the health office for emergency use.

Students and faculty should wear/bring clean masks each day.

If your child is not able to wear a mask and has any of the symptoms listed in above, your child may not come to school until the symptom/s is/are resolved. Masking at school is Lesley Ellis School policy. If your child has a medical condition that does not allow for them to wear a mask, please notify Joe Ryan in the school health office immediately. ****Children not able to wear a mask must present results of a negative COVID-19 test two times per week.****

Testing

The school participates in weekly pooled testing, reflex testing as needed, at-home antigen testing, and in-school symptomatic testing via a grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The school must follow the guidelines of this testing program.

Groups/Cohorts at School

All students will be in a cohort/classroom group. These groups will remain together through the school day and will be the same every day. Students who attend Early Morning Drop Off or Clubhouse will mix with a larger group of students.

Positive Cases of COVID-19 in the Lesley Ellis Community

In the event of a positive case of COVID-19 in our community, we will follow guidance from the Department of Public Health and DESE. Our goal is to remain transparent and to continue to provide updates to our community in order to keep everyone healthy and safe.

During the School Day Sick Plan

If a student falls ill while at school, the following will take place:

1. The student will continue to wear a mask, be separated from other students, and will be immediately sent to be evaluated by the school nurse.
2. With parental/guardian(s) consent, the student will be tested for COVID-19 with use of the BinaxNow Rapid Antigen Test.
3. If the test is negative and is:
 1. Administered due to a single non-primary symptom, a decision will be made in collaboration with the parents, the nurse and the student about disposition;
 2. Administered due to a primary indicative symptom of COVID-19, the test must be confirmed by a PCR test. The student should be dismissed and remain home until the PCR results are back;
 3. If symptoms include fever, vomiting or diarrhea, the student should be free of these symptoms for 24 hrs (without the use of symptom suppressing medication) before returning to school, irrespective of COVID status.
4. If the test is positive:
 1. Remain at home for at least 5 days. After 5 days the individual may return to school if they are **symptom free** and present evidence of a negative antigen test. If the individual continues to test positive or has symptoms they should isolate for 10 days, unless they meet both criteria at some point before day 10. Test results may be sent to Nurse Joe Ryan either as a photo or PDF. In order to return prior to day 10, the individual must be able to wear a mask appropriately.
 2. Monitor symptoms.
 3. Notify personal close contacts.
 4. Answer the call from the local board of health or Massachusetts Community Tracing Collaborative to help identify close contacts to help them prevent transmission
5. Lesley Ellis School will notify close contacts in the school community of the individual who tests positive for COVID-19.

Student or Staff Member Symptomatic

- If at home, stay home and get tested (PCR or rapid antigen). Follow 4a - 4d above.
- If at school, obtain rapid test from school nurse

- If the test is negative a decision will be made in collaboration with the parents, the nurse and the student about disposition on a case by case basis.
- If the test result is positive: see 4a - 4d above.
- Alert school nurse (Joe Ryan) of symptoms and testing status.

Student or Staff Member Exposed to COVID-19 positive individual outside of school (close contact of a positive individual)

(Vaccinated individuals may attend school with no testing or quarantine.)

Option #1 Quarantine for 10 days without testing (unvaccinated individuals)

Release on Day 11 if:

1. The individual has not experienced any symptoms up to that point; AND
2. The individual conducts active monitoring of symptoms through Day 14.

No test is necessary under this option.

Individuals must actively monitor symptoms and take temperature once daily. IF even **mild** symptoms develop or the individual has a temperature of 100.0 F, they must immediately self-isolate, contact Joe Ryan and the public health authority overseeing their quarantine and get tested.

Option #2 Continuation of Classes (unvaccinated individuals under the age of 5)

If the close contact is asymptomatic, they may continue to attend school if:

1. They are able to appropriately wear a mask at all times except when eating or drinking;
2. They participate in daily at-home rapid antigen testing (send negative results to Nurse Joe) and daily symptom check with Nurse Joe for 5 days.

****Continuation of Classes is not available for unvaccinated individuals age 5 and older.****

Option #3: Traditional Protocol (unvaccinated individuals)

The duration of quarantine is at least 7 days from the date of exposure. After 7 days, students may return to school on day 8 if:

- A test (either PCR or home antigen) taken on Day 5 or later is negative; AND
- The individual has not experienced any symptoms up to that point; AND
- The individual conducts active monitoring through Day 14.

Individuals must actively monitor symptoms and take temperature once daily. IF even **mild** symptoms develop or the individual has a temperature of 100.0 F, they must immediately self-isolate, contact Joe Ryan and the public health authority overseeing their quarantine and get tested.

Vaccinated Student or Staff Member Exposed to COVID-19 positive individual at home (living with a positive member of the household **who is unable to isolate)**

1. If the close contact is asymptomatic, they may continue to attend school if:
 1. They are able to appropriately wear a mask at all times except when eating or drinking;
 2. They participate in daily at-home rapid antigen testing (send negative results to Nurse Joe) and daily symptom check with Nurse Joe. The number of days for testing will vary depending upon the situation.

Unvaccinated Student or Staff Member Exposed to COVID-19 positive individual at school (close contact of a positive individual)

Option #1: Continuation of Classes (unvaccinated individual under the age of 5)

If a close contact is asymptomatic, they may attend school if:

1. They appropriately wear masks at all times in school, other than eating and drinking.
2. They participate in daily antigen testing at school on school days for 5 days after exposure and remain negative. On weekends, close contacts should remain quarantined and if still asymptomatic, can return to school after the weekend and resume antigen testing.
3. Individuals should conduct active monitoring for **symptoms** for a full 14 day period after exposure.

Vaccinated individuals do not participate in Option #1 Continuation of Classes. They may attend school. Unvaccinated individuals age 5 and over **may** participate in Option #1, Continuation of Classes. **They must provide their own at-home antigen tests.**

Option #2: 10 days of strict quarantine (unvaccinated individual)

Release on Day 11 if:

- The individual has not experienced any symptoms up to that point; AND
- The individual conducts active monitoring through Day 14.

No test is necessary under this option.

Individuals must actively monitor symptoms and take temperature once daily. IF even **mild** symptoms develop or the individual has a temperature of 100.0 F, they must immediately self-isolate, contact Joe Ryan and the public health authority overseeing their quarantine and get tested.

Option #3: 14 days of strict quarantine (unvaccinated individual)

- The individual indicates they are unwilling or unable to conduct active monitoring.

Please be aware that these are general guidelines that we will follow as a school. In each situation where an individual has been identified as a close contact, we will work directly with that family and the local board of health to determine the appropriate plan.