

## **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: 4/8/22. 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, 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**

**Parents are allowed to enter the building.** They first must send a copy or photo of their vaccination card to Nurse Joe Ryan. Parents entering the building must wear a mask.

### **Handwashing**

Students and staff will wash their hands on a regular basis.

Hands will be washed with soap and water. 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**

When indoors, **desks and tables are arranged so students are 3 feet apart when they are seated.** Windows will be opened as often as possible to encourage ventilation.

## **Masks\*\***

Students and faculty are welcome to wear masks inside the building, but they are not required to do so. Everyone should continue to bring a mask to school because there may be times during the school day when masks will be required.

Yellow, Green and Orange Room classes will continue to wear masks inside at all times during the day; this applies to both staff and students with several exceptions. Exceptions to these classrooms 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 welcomed, but not required.

Parents and other visitors inside the building must wear a mask at all times.

**Children in the Yellow, Green and Orange classrooms 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 is required to 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 on occasion have inside interaction with other cohorts**. 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, 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:
  - a. A decision will be made in collaboration with the parents, the nurse and the student about disposition. Depending on the presenting symptoms, early dismissal from school may be indicated as well as an evaluation/clearance from a healthcare provider prior to the student's return to class.
  - b. And 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:
  - a. 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 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.
  - b. **If the individual qualifies to return before day 10, the individual must wear a mask at school through day 10.**
  - c. Monitor symptoms.
  - d. Notify personal close contacts.
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. **Testing 5 days after exposure is recommended.**)

#### **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)**

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.

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.

### **Student or Staff Member Exposed to COVID-19 positive individual at home (living with a household member who is positive for COVID-19)**

**Alert Nurse Joe if there is a COVID-19 positive household member.**

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 and masking 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)**

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 home (tests provided by the family) 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.

**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.