Returning Student Scenario Guidance
Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) and Boarding Schools

This document is meant to cover the most common questions associated with students returning to Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) or boarding schools from other towns or states and how to handle questions of jurisdiction and reporting in MAVEN.

Definitions

OOS: Out of State

Typical Student: Student on a typical academic calendar. Attends school in MA eight months of the year, travels home for summer and school breaks. This student is considered a MA resident for disease surveillance purposes.

- Note: a new student (freshman, transfer, etc.) who previously tested positive over the summer in their home state would be considered an OOS case (as they have lived the majority of the year in a different state).

Atypical Student: Student not on a standard school schedule. Lives in another state most or all the year. Whether this student is considered a MA resident for disease surveillances purposes would be based on where the student was living at the time of symptom onset, or if asymptomatic, date of specimen collection of positive test.

Fully Vaccinated Individuals: Individuals are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19 ≥ 2 weeks after they have received the second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), or ≥ 2 weeks after they have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson and Johnson (J&J)/Janssen).

Recently Recovered Individuals: Individuals who have completed their 10-day isolation and are < 90 days from the date of symptom onset (or positive test collection if asymptomatic).

Out of State (OOS) Scenarios:

Scenario 1: Brand new student who is initially arriving in MA, who tested positive and recovered out of state (OOS) and is bringing documentation of their test results to Campus

- While a resident outside of MA, they tested positive and completed their isolation prior to moving to school.
- Arrives in MA and school needs lab report to confirm that they do not need to test, quarantine, or be included in their surveillance testing program for a designated period of time (see latest guidance from DPH to determine this duration).
Guidance (both Typical and Atypical Students) when student has recently recovered:
School to contact student for testing record and school maintains their own documentation of the student’s COVID test outside of MAVEN.
- Recently recovered students are not recommended for surveillance testing. If a recently recovered student has a new positive result in MA and it should not be counted as a new case, please contact the Epi program at 617-983-6800.

Scenario 2: Returning student who is arriving back in MA, tested positive and recovered out of state (OOS) and is bringing documentation of their test results to Campus

Typical Student: These students are counted as MA residents and their positive results would count as a MA case. In the above scenario, the student may be returning for the semester or may be returning following a school break.

Atypical Student: These students would NOT be counted as MA residents and their positive results would NOT be counted as a MA case, although they may complete their isolation in MA.

Typical Student Guidance:
Most states should report cases directly to the MA state health department if they have a confirmed case that should be counted in MA. If an official report is obtained by a school or LBOH, a copy of the report should be submitted to DSAI so a MAVEN event can be created or updated. Email mavenhelp@mass.gov with questions.

Scenario 3: Shortly After Arrival at School, Student Receives New Positive Test Results from Recent Out of State Specimen Collection (AKA: student arrives and learns they are a current case).

If a student tested out of state and learns they are positive, MDPH may receive a report of this result from the other state, but this is not guaranteed. It will depend on the official address the student used when obtaining the test.

Typical Student: These students are counted as MA residents and their positive results would count as a MA case. If an official report is obtained by a school or LBOH, a copy of the report should be submitted to DSAI so a MAVEN event can be created or updated. Email mavenhelp@mass.gov with questions.

Atypical Student: These students would NOT be counted as MA residents and their positive results would NOT be counted as a MA case, although they may complete their isolation in MA. If you would still like to track this case’s isolation in MA, contact the Epi program 617-983-6800 or mavenhelp@mass.gov to help you create or update an event with a REVOKED status, so it is not counted as a MA case.