Follow-up for Positive COVID-19 Cases and their Close Contacts

Tools for LBOHs

June 8, 2021

Hillary Johnson, MHS, Infectious Disease Epidemiologist
Scott Troppy, MPH, PMP, CIC, Surveillance Epidemiologist
Alexandra DeJesus, MPH, CIC, Infectious Disease Epidemiologist
Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences MA Department of Public Health
Topics Today

- CTC Extract – moving to once day for your cases/contacts at 10 a.m.
- ENX update
- Resources Review
  - Recent Trainings
  - Updated Interview Tool & Contact Identification Forms
- Updated Close Contact Definition
- K-12 Setting
- Quick Hockey Update
- Your Questions
  - Testing
Updates for today, Tuesday, 6/8/2021

- **LBOH Immediate Workflow** – COVID-19 event only – please check your workflow **TODAY** and clear out the workflow

- **CTC Data Pull** will happen once a day starting on **Wednesday, June 9th**
  - Data will be extracted daily at 10 a.m. CTC

- **ENX Update**

- **Friday DPH Office Hours** – cancelled for the summer
Immediate Notification workflow (COVID-19 Only)

- **UPDATE:** COVID-19 Immediate Notification Workflow - 303 events in this workflow this morning
  - This will allow proper notification of all new COVID-19 events for your jurisdiction. *(Confirmed and Probable Cases)*
  - Please review all events/cases in this workflow and complete your Step 1 - LBOH Notification to “Yes” to clear out this workflow.
  - If you are retaining ownership then complete Step 2 (Investigation Started) & Step 3 (LBOH Investigator (name, lboh, phone number)
  - When you are done then complete Step 4 (Case Report Form Complete
  - You can complete Step 5 if you want – if not then leave blank
Update on Cases/Contacts being sent to CTC

- Due to the decrease in cases/contacts there will be returning to the MAVEN CTC extract once a day.
- **New MAVEN protocol takes effect on Wednesday, June 9th at 10 a.m.**
  - **YES**: Cases/Contacts marked YES go to the CTC
  - **NO or Blank**: Cases/Contacts marked NO stay with the LBOH
  - You can use the Bulk Action Workflows for both Cases/Contacts
- Any questions please email isishelp@mass.gov
We are waiting on final decision but could go live as early as next week.
Need a refresher – check out the 3/30 slides and webinar recording information on MAVEN Help Section.
How MassNotify works

When two people using MassNotify on their smartphones are near each other, their phones exchange random codes using Bluetooth. The codes are completely anonymous, with no location tracking or exchange of identifying personal information.

When someone in Massachusetts tests positive, they will receive a text message from DPH with a verification link.

During the pilot, text messages will only be sent to residents of participating municipalities.

The person who tests positive can choose to follow the link to anonymously share their positive test result with other MassNotify users.

Anyone who also has MassNotify and has been near the user who tested positive for a significant length of time in the last 14 days may receive an anonymous alert that they might have been exposed.

Notifications have a link to information about what to do next to protect yourself and others. They do not contain any information about who tested positive or where the exposure may have happened.
Powered by Exposure Notification (EN) technology developed by Apple and Google, MassNotify works through smartphones of those who enable it, with a focus on privacy, to alert users who may have been exposed to COVID-19.

- **Bluetooth technology**—automatically notifies users about potential exposures from other MassNotify users they have been in close proximity with—*even total strangers*
- **Privacy-focused**—MassNotify includes many privacy protections and won’t track where users go
- **Voluntary**—users need to opt-in to get or send exposure notifications and can opt out any time
- **Anonymous**—users won’t know where or by whom they were exposed; no surveillance information is gathered
- **Early action**—helps to facilitate swift testing/self-quarantine of potential exposures

MassNotify does not replace contact tracing or any other COVID-19 interventions

---

**About MassNotify**

MassNotify: The official COVID-19 automated exposure notification system for Massachusetts
Friday DPH Office Hours

- **SCHEDULE UPDATE:** Please note, for Summer 2021, we will be discontinuing our Friday Office Hours sessions at this time.

- We will continue our weekly Tuesday webinar as a modified presentation with more time to answer your questions in an open forum as needed.

- We look forward to seeing you on Tuesdays at our regularly scheduled 11 am!
MDPH Conducts Weekly COVID-19 Case Investigation Webinars

- MDPH presents weekly on Tuesdays 11:00-12:15
  - Updates in Guidance
  - Troubleshooting MAVEN
  - How to conduct case investigations and contact tracing in different settings.
  - Target Audience: Health Agents and public health nurses doing this work.

- Friday Office Hours have been **discontinued** for the summer.

MAVEN Help has Guidance Documents and Previous Webinars:

**Webinars: Tuesdays @ 11am**

---

**MDPH Epi Program:** 617-983-6800
**MDPH MAVEN Help Desk:** isishelp@mass.gov
**MDPH ISIS Help Desk:** 617-983-6801
**MDPH ISIS Fax:** 617-983-6813

**CTC Help Desk:** 857-305-2828
**CTC Local Health Help** ctclocalhealthhelp@covid19.pih.org
**CTC Supervisor Contact List**
**Higher Ed Contact List**
Summary of Key Guidance & Tools

- **Date: March 22, 2021 - MA Travel Advisory**
  - The previous Travel Order has been replaced with an advisory.
  - PCR or Abbot BinaxNOW Antigen test are acceptable for testing out of 10 day Travel Quarantine Advisory.

- **Isolation & Quarantine Guidance Documents**
    - Guidance now states recently recovered (in first 90 days) and fully vaccinated people do not need to quarantine.

- **Date: March 8, 2021 – Occupational Exposure & Return to Work Guidance**
  - Now includes language about recently recovered and fully vaccinated people.

- **Pediatric Clinical Testing Advisory**
  - 11/25/2020 Advises Pediatricians to Test for COVID-19 in all patients with symptoms compatible with COVID, regardless of age

- **Date: 10/21/2020 COVID-19 Testing Scenarios FAQ**
  - Describes different lab test results and what to do
  - Outlines discordant results and what they mean

- **05/06/2021 Updated COVID-19 Case Classification Manual**
Summary of Key Guidance & Tools

Date: 8/22/2020 - MDPH COVID-19 PCR and Antibody Testing Public Health Response Recommendations
• Table describes different Public Health Actions based upon different testing results.
• Big take home: PCR & Antigen positive patients should be treated like cases.
• Serology + cases do not require public health follow-up.

Date 8/10/2020 - MDPH Follow-up Table for Positive Antigen Test Results
• Reminder that while Antigen Tests = Probable, we still treat like a case and isolate accordingly & do contact tracing.
• A PCR obtained at the same time (w/ i 2 calendar days) will trump the antigen test result.

Date: 02/13/2021- Updated CDC Guidance on Duration of Isolation & Precautions for Adults with COVID-19
• 10 Day Isolation Period now has more data supporting it.
• Ignore most additional PCR tests up to 3 months after initial illness onset.
• No need to quarantine up to 3 months after initial illness onset.

Date: 8/7/2020: MA Testing Guidance
CDC Updated Pages

• CDC Vaccines Guidance Page:
  • “Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the United States”
    • Great resource for all your vaccine questions. Now includes info on all three vaccines!

• Immunization Action Coalition (IAC)’s Ask the Experts page has been updated for the J&J COVID-19 vaccine.
  • https://www.immunize.org/askexperts/experts_cov.asp
    • Great resource for all your vaccine questions in a Q&A format.

• CDC has moved their guidance on vaccinated individuals to a NEW page:
  • Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People
    • Talks about what precautions are still needed for fully vaccinated people, etc.
A quick recap for June 7, 2021

The Last Few Tuesday Webinars

Introduction to COVID-19 Follow-up Part 1 – May 11, 2021
- Part 1 Intro Training Slides
- Part 1 Intro Training Recording

Introduction to COVID-19 Follow-up Part 2 – May 18, 2021
- Part 2 Intro Training Slides
- Part 2 Intro Training Recording

COVID-19 Cluster Events Training – May 25, 2021
- Cluster Training Slides
- Cluster Training Recording

Always Remember you can see all previous webinar recordings and slides in MAVEN Help.

The Basics from these Two Introductory Trainings

**Introduction to COVID-19 Follow-up Part 1 – May 11, 2021**
- Some SARS-CoV-2 Basics (define close contact, symptoms, transmission)
- Vaccination
- Calculations
  - Cases – Isolation Period
  - Contacts – Quarantine Period
- Key Documents & Tools for Staying Up to Date

**Introduction to COVID-19 Follow-up Part 2 – May 18, 2021**
- Review of Key Concepts
- Familiarity with Different Lab Tests
- Deeper Dive into Case Interview
- Deeper Dive into Contact Tracing
- Frequently Asked Questions

Recordings and slides for all trainings will be available here: [http://www.maventrainingsite.com/maven-help/toc.html](http://www.maventrainingsite.com/maven-help/toc.html)
Introduction to COVID-19 Follow-up Part 2 – May 18, 2021

• Review Part 1 Key Concepts
  • Isolation for Cases
  • Close Contact
  • Return to Work Guidance
  • Quarantine for Contacts
    • Use the tools!
  • Vaccination
  • Your Questions

• Lab Tests
  • PCR, Antigen, and Serology (antibody)
  • Home Tests
  • Sequencing for Variant Identification

• Case Investigation
  • The Interview Tool

• Contact Tracing and Notification
  • Contact Identification Forms

• Key Resources ([MAVEN Help](#))
Cluster Events Training May 25, 2021

- Defining Clusters
  - What criteria is required to create a cluster?
- Naming Clusters
  - Rules for Naming Cluster Events
- Creating Epi Clusters in MAVEN
  - Step by Step Process in MAVEN
- Linking Events to Clusters
  - Step by Step Process in MAVEN
- Reviewing/Defining Key Variables in Cluster Events and linked Case Events
  - Risk QP5 Variables (individual cases)
- Notifications to MDPH & LBOHs
- Closing Clusters
- MAVEN Demo
Contact Notification Tools

- There are tools available for you to help collect information on close contacts and to calculate out their quarantine period (and potential quarantine options as applicable).

- **Close Contact Form (1 Contact Extended Calculation Tool)**

- **Close Contact Form (2 Contacts)**

- All tools, including the Interview Tool, are available on MAVEN Help.
  - You do NOT have to be in MAVEN or be a MAVEN user to access these tools. They are available online.
Close Contact: Updated Definition

The mass.gov **definition of Close Contact** has been updated to **Exclude Outdoor exposures**.

This is the [wording on mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov): 

- **How do I know if I am a close contact of someone with COVID-19?**
  - You are a close contact of a COVID-19 positive person if you were within 6 feet of them while **indoors**, for at least 15 minutes, while they were symptomatic or within the 48 hours before symptom onset.
  - You are also a close contact if you were within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes of someone while **indoors**, who tested positive for COVID-19 in the 48 hours before their test was taken or anytime in the 10 days after the test.
  - According to CDC guidance, individuals are less likely to be exposed to COVID-19 during outdoor activities, even without the use of masks.
Close Contact Definition: Indoors Only

- **People who are exposed outdoors are not required to quarantine.**

- **Is this retroactive?** While in general we do not apply new guidance retrospectively, LBOH can use their discretion about this. There are people currently in quarantine who are missing work or graduation and LBOH can let them out if their only exposure was outdoors.

- **CTC has been notified and should also be applying this criteria.**

- This would include **Outdoor Sports**, as there is no sector-specific guidance taking precedence anymore for sports. (Yes, we have seen transmission in high-risk outdoor sports, but EEA has removed their sports-specific guidance as of last weekend, so based upon this update (and unless we hear further) there is no distinction for outdoor sports vs. other outdoor interactions.)
  - Thus, no quarantine required for outdoor sports. (Remember there may still be close contact through before/after sports activities.)

- If there is a remaining **sector-specific guidance**, that would take precedence.

- **Can a local jurisdiction do something different?** Inconsistencies across jurisdictions can be more difficult to navigate. This would not necessarily be advised.

- **This is a Massachusetts-specific definition update.** CDC has not made this change at this time.
K-12 Schools & Contact Tracing

- The June 1st DESE FAQ addresses Contact Tracing in K-12 Schools & Updated Graduation Guidance
- DESE also updated their Protocols for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios on June 4th.

Contact Tracing K-12 Summary:

- **Outdoor Exposures:** DESE has incorporated the state’s updated guidance on close contacts indoors vs. outdoors. As a result, the period of time that a student or staff is outside does not count as a close contact. The identification of a close contact is ONLY attributable to the time spent indoors.

- **In Classroom and On the Bus:** Close contacts who were exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual in the classroom or on the bus while both individuals were masked do not have to quarantine unless they were within 3 feet of distance of the COVID-19 positive individual for a total of 15 minutes during a 24-hour period. (If Case or Contact is unmasked, quarantine is still required with exposure < 6ft.)

- **Vaccinated & Recently Recovered:** Individuals who are fully vaccinated or who have had confirmed COVID-19 in the last 90 days do not need to quarantine as long as they do not have symptoms.

- **Summary:** Outside exposures are not defined as close contact and do not require quarantine at this time.
Hockey Update: Look for Close Contacts

• **Hockey**
  
  • Given the current low levels of COVID-19 circulating in the community, we no longer recommend a blanket quarantine for all participants when an infectious person is on the playing surface.
  
  • Going forward and in line with all other high risk indoor sports, we recommend using a contact tracing approach for identifying close contacts.
  
  • As always, if exposures are unclear, we support the BOH’s decision to take a more conservative approach in quarantining a wider group of people if they feel it is appropriate.
  
  • **Summary: No Longer Blanket Quarantine for Hockey – now we can just do regular contact tracing of close contacts.**
Variants – Please Note

• At this time, there is no additional isolation or quarantine guidance for any identified variants in cases or their contacts.

• For the latest on what we know about different variants and their attributes (which includes any evidence regarding vaccine efficacy), please see this CDC webpage:
  • SARS-CoV-2 Variant Classifications and Definitions
    • Remember, there are:
      • Variant of Interest
      • Variant of Concern
        • Evidence of reduced vaccine-induced protection from severe disease
      • Variant of High Consequence
        • Evidence to suggest a significant reduction in vaccine effectiveness, a disproportionately high number of vaccine breakthrough cases, or very low vaccine-induced protection against severe disease

• To date, no variants of high consequence have been identified in the United States.
Testing Questions: Ending Isolation

• Q. If a PCR POSITIVE individual obtains two NEGATIVE PCR tests >24 hours apart, and the patient is asymptomatic or their symptoms have abated, may they discontinue their isolation prior to the minimum 10 days outlined by the Symptom or Time-Based Strategy for ending isolation?

• **Answer:** The Test-Based Strategy (two NEGATIVE PCR test results >24 hours apart) is generally not recommended in most instances (The Symptom or Time-Based Strategies are preferred). However, CDC does indicate that the Test-Based Strategy may be used to discontinue isolation and this may occur earlier than would be indicated by the symptom or time-based strategy.

• While the Test-Based Strategy can be considered on a case-by-case basis, MDPH cautions against using the Test-Based Strategy as part of a larger population testing protocol, particularly in congregate settings such as dorms or other densely populated locations. Caution should be taken that subsequent specimens are collected appropriately, monitored by healthcare personnel.
Testing Questions: Ending Isolation

• Test Based Strategy (Not A Recommended Strategy):
  
  • PCR POSITIVE individual obtains two NEGATIVE PCR tests >24 hours apart.

  • Must have NO symptoms at the start of this strategy (at the time of collecting the first negative specimen).

  • The first negative specimen must NOT be collected on the same day as the Positive PCR.
    • You need to wait at least 24 hours to start this testing.

  • The second negative test collection date is the last day in isolation. Exposures from that day would still need to quarantine.

• While the Test-Based Strategy can be considered on a case-by-case basis, MDPH cautions against using the Test-Based Strategy as part of a larger population testing protocol, particularly in congregate settings such as dorms or other densely populated locations. Caution should be taken that subsequent specimens are collected appropriately, monitored by healthcare personnel.
Test-Based Strategy for Ending Isolation

- **Utilizing a Test Based strategy simply ends isolation earlier** than the default 10 days that usually applies to a Symptom or Time-Based strategy.

- **This person is still a confirmed case.** Their classification does not change.
  - Only their isolation period changes (to a shorter period).

- **Their contacts must still complete a full quarantine from their exposure.** This does not mean they were suddenly not exposed to a case anymore.
  - The index case was simply infectious for a shorter period.
    - If a contact was exposed on Day 3, and the index case ends their isolation on Day 7 (instead of Day 10), Day 3 was still an exposure and the contact still needs a 14-day quarantine.
Masking: Now an Advisory

May 29: Masking Order Rescinded, Masking Advisory now in place:

- Advises all unvaccinated residents to continue to wear masks in indoor settings and when they can’t socially distance.

- **Masks** are still mandatory for all individuals on public and private transportation systems (including rideshares, livery, taxi, ferries, MBTA, Commuter Rail and transportation stations), in K-12 DESE schools, in healthcare facilities and in other settings hosting vulnerable populations, such as congregate care settings. See the guidance for specifics.
K-12 School Masking

• “We require all students and all staff to wear masks when indoors, unless students receive a medical or behavior exemption.”

• “Students and staff are no longer required to wear masks during outdoor activities, including recess.”

• Effective May 29, 2021, fully vaccinated educators do not have to wear masks when outdoors and unvaccinated educators are encouraged to wear masks when outdoors, in alignment with the state masking advisory.
  
  • May 17 DESE FAQ
  • Updates to DESE COVID-19 Guidance May 27, 2021
  • Protocols for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios on June 4th.
## Molecular (PCR), Antigen, and Antibody (Serology) Testing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Molecular Test (PCR)</th>
<th>Antigen Test - Newer (always rapid)</th>
<th>Antibody (Serology Test)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Listed in Lab Tab as follows:  
  • 2019-nCoV Real-time RT-PCR (PCR)  
  • SARS coronavirus 2 RdRp gene (PCR RAPID) | Listed in Lab Tab as follows:  
  • SARS-CoV-2 Ag (Antigen Test) | Listed in Lab Tab as follows:  
  • SARS-CoV-2 IgM (Serology IgM specific)  
  • SARS-CoV-2 IgG (Serology IgG specific)  
  • SARS-CoV-2 IgA (Serology IgA specific)  
  • SARS-CoV-2 IgG + IgM (Serology Antibody Type Unspecified) |
| Panel Tests that Include COVID-19:  
  • 2019-nCOV RNA PNL XXX NAA+PROBE  
  • Flu A/Flu B/SARS COVID-2/SARS-related coronavirus RNA panel  
  • Resp virus Pnl XXX PCR |  | |
| Positive Molecular Test:  
  Case Classification = CONFIRMED | Positive Antigen Test:  
  Case Classification = PROBABLE | Positive Antibody Test:  
  Case Classification = SUSPECT |