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

Tools for LBOHs

November 23, 2021

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

• MAVEN Updates
• CTC Timeline Reminder
• CTC Guest Presentation
  • Building Trust
• Review from Last Week
• DESE Updates
• CTC & Contact Tracing Transition
  • Increasing Local Capacity
• What are your needs?
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, Contact Tracers, and Public Health Nurses doing this work.

Webinars: Tuesdays @ 11am

MAVEN Help has Guidance Documents and Previous Webinars:

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
DESE Rapid Response Help Center: (781) 338-3500
CTC Help Desk: 857-305-2828
CTC Local Health Help ctclocalhealthhelp@cov19.pih.org
CTC Supervisor Contact List
Higher Ed Contact List
COVID-19 Case Investigations

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Updates for today, Tuesday, 11/23/2021

- CTC Timeline for Closure - Last Day to send cases is 11/30
- Proposed Changes to the COVID workflows as of 12/1
- Reminder to check your Immediate, Routine & Pending Case Report Form Workflows (something other than COVID)
- LBOH Immediate Workflow – COVID-19 events only – please check your workflow TODAY and clear out the workflow
- COVID Workflows Changes and “COVID Assistance to Yes” (Disabling this field)
- First Responder LBOH Report will be disabled on 12/1
- Reminder about vacation time/MAVEN coverage
### Timeline for CTC Closure

- The last day to send cases to the CTC is **Tuesday, November 30**.
- Your Local Health Liaison (LHL) will be available through **Thursday, December 30**.
- The CTC will close **Friday, December 31**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>December</th>
<th>11/23</th>
<th>11/29</th>
<th>12/1</th>
<th>12/6</th>
<th>12/13</th>
<th>12/20</th>
<th>12/27</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Today</strong></td>
<td><strong>11/30</strong></td>
<td>Last day to send cases to CTC</td>
<td>MAVEN update</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>COVID Assistance Disabled in MAVEN</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12/30</td>
<td>End of LHL support</td>
<td>12/31 CTC closes</td>
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*Thanksgiving week*  *Winter holidays*
Changes to COVID Assistance to Yes (Admin QP)

- Cases will be sent in the morning and late date on 11/30/21 to CTC
- MAVEN release will happen after 5 p.m. to make changes to the system
- CTC Assistance Requested in the Administrative Question Package will be disabled on 11/30/21 (late day)
Proposed Changes to Workflows for COVID

- CTC Set Assistance to Yes for Contacts will be **disabled**
- CTC Set Assistance to Yes for Cases will be **disabled**
- **Add** a bulk action feature for COVID cases workflow to allow you to update Step 1 to Yes (LBOH Notification)
- Workflow will only hold cases for 72 hours – you will need to use your Confirmed and Probable Report to manage cases

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<th>Star</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>★</td>
<td>LBOH COVID-19: Set COVID Assistance to Yes (Contacts Only)</td>
<td>✗</td>
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<tr>
<td>★</td>
<td>LBOH COVID-19: Set COVID Assistance to Yes (Probable and Confirmed)</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✅</td>
<td>LBOH Notification for Immediate Disease (COVID only)</td>
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</table>

**add Bulk action & only have 72 hours of cases**
First Responder Report – disabled as of 12/1

COVID-19 line list of addresses with individual(s) under isolation for emergency responders

- Emergency order was rescinded this past summer by Gov Baker
- Contact Tracing Monitoring variable not being updated
- Removing report 12/1/2021
Reminder—Starting Dec 1st you will need to plan on running this report daily – as you know our COVID Immediate workflow stops working at 5000 cases.
Reminder about vacation/out of office coverage

- If you plan to take time off, you must ensure there is infectious disease response capacity while you are away. The steps you take depend on your circumstance.
- Please review email that was sent out on 11/23/2021
- Reminder to check and review your communication events
Check your Immediate, Routine & Pending Workflows

- Reminder to check your Immediate, Routine, Pending Case Report Form Workflows
  - LBOH Notification for Immediate Disease
  - LBOH Notification for Routine disease (711 cases sitting in this workflow today)
  - LBOH Case Report Forms (CRF) are pending (953 cases)
Immediate Notification workflow (COVID-19 Only)

- **UPDATE**: COVID-19 Immediate Notification Workflow - **2,439** 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

- Part One: COVID-19 Basics Slides
- Part One: COVID-19 Basics Recording
- Part One training will include:
  - COVID-19 Basics
    - Background
    - Signs & Symptoms
    - Transmission
    - Defining Close Contact
  - Vaccination
  - Isolation & Quarantine
    - Calculations & Guidance

Part TWO: COVID-19 Labs & Case Investigation  (Oct. 12, 2021)

- Part TWO: COVID-19 Labs & Case Investigation Slides
- Part TWO: COVID-19 Labs & Case Investigation Recording
- Part Two: Case Investigation will include:
  - Review of Part 1 Key Concepts
    - Your FAQs
  - Laboratory Testing for COVID-19
    - 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

New and onboarding staff are encouraged to review these trainings. You do not have to be a MAVEN user.
Summary of Key Guidance & Tools

• MA Testing Guidance: Updated June 14, 2021
  • [https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-testing-guidance](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-testing-guidance)

• MA Travel Information
  • Return to normal travel recommendations for vaccinated people, and says to check CDC pages for the latest on domestic and international travel.

• Isolation & Quarantine Guidance Documents
    • Update: Abbott BinaxNOW no longer specified for antigen testing out of strict quarantine.
    • Guidance 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: 10/13/2021 COVID-19 Testing Scenarios FAQ
  • Describes different lab test results and what to do
  • Outlines discordant results and what they mean

• 09/03/2021 Updated COVID-19 Case Classification Manual
  • COVID-19 now 90 days (so new event will be generated with a new positive lab after 90 days)

Updated in June

MA Travel Advisory is Gone.

Updated Quarantine Guidance 9/29/21!

Helpful to get Docs to test Kids

NEW Lab Results FAQ!!! 10/13/21

Updated 9/3 with new 90-day COVID event time period!
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 positive 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: 09/14/2021- Ending Isolation and Precautions for People with COVID-19: Interim Guidance
• 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.
CDC Updated Pages

- CDC Vaccines Guidance Page:
  - “Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the United States”
    - Everything you need to know regarding vaccination guidelines.
      - Who should get what vaccine?
      - Timing of vaccines.
      - Recommendations for additional doses or boosters for different populations.
      - Contraindications and precautions.
      - Vaccine ingredients.
      - Administration of Vaccines (how to, what to use, etc.)
    - This is a living document that gets updated as recommendations are adopted and refined.

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

- CDC guidance on VACCINATED PEOPLE:
  - Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People
    - Talks about what precautions are still needed for fully vaccinated people, etc.
    - Some recommendations are still under consideration here in MA.
Updates – A quick recap for Nov. 23, 2021

We Last Met November 16, 2021:

• MAVEN Updates
• CTC Timeline Reminder
• Review from Last Week
• Test and Stay Updates
• Vaccine Reminders
• CTC & Contact Tracing Transition
  • Increasing Local Capacity
• What are your needs?

  ▪ Part One: COVID-19 Basics Slides
  ▪ Part One: COVID-19 Basics Recording

Part TWO: COVID-19 Labs & Case Investigation (Oct. 12, 2021)
  ▪ Part TWO: COVID-19 Labs & Case Investigation Slides
  ▪ Part TWO: COVID-19 Labs & Case Investigation Recording


Always Remember you can see all previous webinar recordings and slides in MAVEN Help.
Before & After School Programming

- **DESE & EEC had a joint webinar** on Friday, November 12th to discuss an update to Test and Stay programming.

  - The presentation clarified that **Test and Stay has been expanded and may now include Before & After school programming in the k-12 setting if school districts wish to take advantage of this benefits extension.**

  - [Test & Stay: Coordination Between School Districts and Out of School Time Programs, November 12, 2021 PowerPoint Presentation.](#)
  - [Memo from EEC, DPH, and DESE about Test and Stay Program Coordination with Out of School Time Programs, November 12, 2021.](#)
New Test & Stay Extension to Before & After School Programs

- **Test & Stay is now extended to included students of EEC-licensed Before and After-School Programs.**
  - **Note that this only applies to EEC-licensed Before and After-School (referred to as Out of School Time (OST)) programs. It does not apply to non-school related EEC programs or non-EEC OST Programs.**
    - (So there is no Test and Stay at this time for Daycares)

- **Some highlights here**
  - It is "bi-directional" meaning if a student is exposed in their OST program, they can continue to attend school as a Test and Stay student OR if a student is exposed in school, they can continue to attend their OST program so long as they comply with Test and Stay.
  - This applies to both on-site and off-site OST Programs - they do not have to be physically located at the school.
  - The OST Program is not expected to be the one preforming the testing. The student should be tested through the school and the school and OST Program should be sharing information regarding test results and close contacts both at school and the OST Program.
1. What should we do if a school in our district is experiencing a concerning increase in COVID-19 cases?
   • FAQ has a good outline of strategies for assessing the situation and utilizing testing resources.

Reminders:
   • If a school has concerns over a spike in cases within a classroom, grade, or a school, districts and schools must notify their local board of health and must call the DESE Rapid Response Help Center at 781-338-3500.
   • Districts must work with DESE prior to making any decisions about quarantining and closure of an entire classroom, grade, or school.

2. Now that children ages 5-11 are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine, are there are any changes in testing and quarantine protocols for these students?
   • Summary: Protocol isn’t changed, but children becoming fully vaccinated now fall into different categories/have different considerations.

Fully Vaccinated:
   • Exempt from testing and quarantine protocols (including Test and Stay).
   • Vaccinated children who are not close contacts also have a modified list of symptoms to be monitored for, and should follow testing and quarantine response protocols if they are experiencing any of the following: fever (100.0°F Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills; difficulty breathing or shortness of breath; new loss of taste or smell; or muscle aches or body aches. These individuals may also seek clinical guidance to assess the need for PCR testing if they have other possible symptoms of COVID-19. For more information see page 3 of the DESE/DPH testing and quarantine protocols.

https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/faq/
Childcare Settings (EEC Guidance)

- Test and Stay is not a quarantine option for Daycares. They are subject to the normal quarantine guidance (7, 10, or 14 day quarantines AT HOME).

- Q: What COVID-19 resources are still available to programs?
  - A. The following COVID-19 resources continue to be available to programs:
    - PPE: [No-cost PPE](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-testing-for-child-care) will continue to be available through the summer for licensed programs.
    - Testing: [No-cost COVID-19 testing](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-testing-for-child-care) for childcare staff, children, and families remains available throughout the Commonwealth.
    - Weekly Pooled Testing for Covid-19 screening is available to licensed Massachusetts early education and care and OST programs at no cost.
Holiday Travel Updates

• Quarantine Station Protocol Update:
  • Per Boston Quarantine Station, the Test-Based Strategy cannot be utilized to complete isolation and travel earlier than the standard 10 days.
  • Cases should note this timing if planning to fly following a COVID-19 diagnosis.
Finishing Out 2021...

Case Investigations and Contact Tracing moving through December 2021

- Given the changed landscape of COVID-19 in MA, contact tracing should be focused to certain settings. Starting now and through December, the CTC and local health departments may scale down their efforts to reach cases and contact by placing only one call per case and contact and eliminating follow-up calls.

- The CTC and local health will still need to convey isolation and quarantine instructions and indicate the local health department is available for more information or for requests for support with isolation or quarantine.
Looking to January 2022...

Case Investigations and Contact Tracing Starting January 2022

- Beginning January 2022, DPH and local health departments may prioritize case investigation and contact tracing in certain settings:
  - Healthcare facilities including SNFs and LTCF – (DPH lead)
  - Large congregate settings such as shelters, corrections – (DPH lead)
  - EEC programs – (DPH and LBOH support)
  - K-12 schools – (LBOH in cooperation with schools)
  - Higher Education – (LBOH in cooperation with facility health services)
  - Disease Clusters – (LBOH in cooperation with DPH)

- We will continue to monitor data to re-prioritize case investigation and contact tracing efforts to other settings as necessary.
Please Answer in the Q&A Field:

• What concerns do you have about COVID-19 Case Investigations over the next few months?

• What topics or settings would you like more tools or trainings on?