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

Tools for LBOHs

November 2, 2021

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Topics Today

• MAVEN Updates
• Medical Reserve Core and Academic Public Health Corps – available to assist with LBOH case investigation
• CTC Timeline for Closure – last day to send cases is 11/30/2021
• Review from Last Week
• DESE Reminders
• Scientific Briefs
• At Home “Self Test” Reminders
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.

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
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
Tools for LBOHs

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Updates for today, Tuesday, 11/2/2021

- **CTC Timeline for Closure**
  - Last Day to send cases is 11/30
  - CTC officially ends on 12/31
    - Salesforce database will be retired and no longer used – relevant case/contact tracing data will be brought back to MAVEN
- **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
- **Medical Reserve Core, (MRC) and Academic Public Health Core, (APHC)** option for LBOH coverage if needed
### 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**.

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*Thanksgiving week*  *Winter holidays*
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 (736 cases sitting in this workflow today)
  - LBOH Case Report Forms (CRF) are pending (954 cases)
Immediate Notification workflow (COVID-19 Only)

- **UPDATE:** COVID-19 Immediate Notification Workflow - 949 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
MAVEN Verification and Approval for MRC Volunteers

1. MRC coordinators provide a roster or MAVEN users to local health departments

2. Local health department provides written permissions of volunteers to be granted MAVEN access (maventraining@mass.gov)

3. Local health department provides volunteer with non-generic municipal email address (i.e. joe.smith@town.org) and provides general instructions for MAVEN training process
MAVEN Verification and Approval for APHC Volunteers

1. APHC coordinators provide a roster or MAVEN users to local health departments

2. Local health department provides written permissions of volunteers to be granted MAVEN access (maventraining@mass.gov)

3. Local health department provides volunteer with non-generic municipal email address (i.e. joe.smith@town.org) and provides general instructions for MAVEN training process
MAVEN Access Process (High level)

• Approved user fills out online MAVEN User Request Form
  • Must indicate the local health contact who has approved access
  • MAVEN training team will verify approvals for access

• MAVEN training team emails approved users training materials after review process

• User completes self paced online trainings and proficiency test
  • Please also review the additional resources provided related to higher education case investigation and follow up

• User account is submitted to the Virtual Gateway for processing and account creation
  • Please note that new accounts can take between 5-7 business days for processing

*In total this process can take 1-2 weeks
COVID Contact Tracing Trainings

- While you are onboarding you can have your volunteers/new staff take the updated Contact Tracing Trainings that are not dependent on having MAVEN access.
  
  - Intro to COVID-19 Investigations Part 1 Basics, Oct 5 - 2021 Presentation
  
  - Intro to COVID-19 Investigations Part 2 Labs and Case Investigation, October 12 - 2021 Presentation
- 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.
November Webinar Topics

• This November during our regularly scheduled Tuesday sessions, we will be incorporating some skills building topics to help enhance your case investigation and interviewing activities at the local level. We will be joined by presenters from the Community Tracing Collaborative (CTC).

• **SESSION DATES:** November 9, November 16, November 23

• **Skills Building TOPICS:**
  
  • How to **build trust** and have fruitful conversations **with cases and contacts** during outreach
  
  • How to have **conversations around sensitive topics** and **collect better information**
  
  • **Care Resource Coordination** and wrap-around services
  
  • **Insights and lessons learned** from CTC

• Registration & more detailed agenda to follow in our weekly emails.

*Please continue sharing specific CTC questions with your Local Health Liaison (LHL)*
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.
  - Update: Abbott BinaxNOW no longer specified for antigen testing out of strict quarantine.
  - Updated Quarantine Guidance 9/29/21!

- 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.
    • Not yet updated regarding booster doses, but will be a great tool shortly.

• 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. 2, 2021

We Last Met October 26, 2021:

- MAVEN Updates
- CTC Timeline Reminder
- Review from Last Week
- Your FAQs

The most important study of this pandemic

- STUDY: Consuming memes during the COVID pandemic: Effects of memes and meme type on COVID-related stress and coping efficacy.
  - Researchers with Pennsylvania State University and the University of California Santa Barbara found that memes helped people cope with life during the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a study published this week in the Psychology of Popular Media journal.

- 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.

MAVEN Reports

- You should be utilizing reports daily for your casework.
- You can also utilize reports to help determine data cleaning needs.

Tip Sheet with running your top 7 MAVEN reports is here in MAVEN Help:
How do I onboard in MIIS?

• Please check MIIS for Vaccine Data on your case/contact. You will likely find a match more readily than the computer.

• You can review the onboarding process here:
  • [https://www.miisresourcecenter.com/pages/ResourceCenterRegistration](https://www.miisresourcecenter.com/pages/ResourceCenterRegistration)
  • [https://www.miisresourcecenter.com/pages/ResourceCenterTrainingCenter](https://www.miisresourcecenter.com/pages/ResourceCenterTrainingCenter)
Case Management & Follow-up

Q. How many times should you try to contact a case or contact prior to selecting “lost to follow-up?”

A. General rule of thumb that we use as Epidemiologists is THREE attempts. We usually vary it across different times to try to get in touch with the case.

- Try texting.
- Try calling at a different time.
- Send snail mail as best practice wrap up.

If you completed the interview but the case never returned your final call at the end of isolation, or if you successfully notified a contact but then lost touch with them on your additional assessment calls, that is not Lost to Follow-up.
DESE & Quarantine

• Q. If DESE states a student is exempt from quarantine, do they have to quarantine at all when not in school?
  
  • A. If someone is exempt from one of the 3 quarantine protocol options in DESE’s Protocol because of the details of a school-based exposure (or other standard exemption), they are exempt from quarantine at large, and can attend school and all personal life activities.

• Q. If DESE states a student must quarantine, do they have to quarantine at all when not in school?
  
  • A. If someone is not exempt from quarantine, but they still attend a K-12 DESE setting for work or school, they must comply with one of the 3 DESE Quarantine Protocol Options:
    • 1. Test and Stay,
    • 2. 7-Day Strict Quarantine at Home, or
    • 3. 10--Day Strict Quarantine at Home.

• Test and Stay allows attendance at school and school activities, but you should be home-bound in the off hours. 7 & 10 day strict quarantines are exclusively home-bound so no additional activities or school attendance allowed.
DESE (K-12th grade) FAQs

8. When individuals participating in Test and Stay are not in school, are they required to quarantine?

- A. In alignment with DPH guidance, **individuals participating in Test and Stay should stay home and quarantine whenever they are not in school settings, for the duration of the Test and Stay period.** As a reminder, as noted on page 6 of the Protocols for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios - SY 2021-22 document, individuals can participate in school activities on the weekends and after school if they continue to test on those days and follow the other Test and Stay protocols.
K-12 Schools! Key Resources Hub

- DESE Information & Resources Page
  - DESE Close Contacts Reminders Doc
  - DESE Close Contacts Decision Tree
  - DESE COVID-19 Protocols Document
  - DESE FAQs Page
- DESE Letter Templates Available for cases, contacts, or general information.
- DESE Rapid Response Help Center: (781) 338-3500
  - Questions from schools about expanded use of testing resources or general testing questions should be referred to k12covid19testing@mass.gov.
  - Parents’ and guardians’ questions can be directed to covid19k12parentinfo@mass.gov
  - District and school staff’s questions can be directed to: Reopeningk12@mass.gov

https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop.html
As we speak this morning...

- The ACIP is currently meeting to discuss the data, epidemiology, and clinical guidance around COVID-19 vaccination for 5-11 year olds.

- We should hear the outcome today or tomorrow!

**NOTICE:** [FDA authorized](https://www.fda.gov) the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for children ages 5 through 11 years. The [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr) is meeting on Tuesday, November 2 to discuss a recommendation for this age group. Watch online [here](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr).
What does the Science Say?

• CDC has a great summary page with “Science Briefs.” This is essentially the state of the science compiled in one spot to help everyone keep tabs on where things are at.

• This is a great page to bookmark!
New CDC Study: Vaccination Offers Higher Protection than Previous COVID-19 Infection

- Aug 6, CDC put out a new study showing the effects of vaccination on preventing re-infection, versus just relying on “natural immunity.”


- These data further indicate that COVID-19 vaccines offer better protection than natural immunity alone and that vaccines, even after prior infection, help prevent reinfections.

- “If you have had COVID-19 before, please still get vaccinated,” said CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky. “This study shows you are twice as likely to get infected again if you are unvaccinated. Getting the vaccine is the best way to protect yourself and others around you, especially as the more contagious Delta variant spreads around the country.”
Most Recent Scientific Briefs

SARS-CoV-2 Infection-induced and Vaccine-induced Immunity

October 29, 2021

• This brief provides an overview of the current scientific evidence regarding infection-induced and vaccine-induced immunity, including both peer-reviewed and preprint publications, as well as unpublished CDC data.

• A more recent analysis of data from a network of 187 hospitals in the United States found that, among more than 7,000 COVID-19-like illness hospitalizations whose prior infection or vaccination occurred 90–179 days beforehand, there was a 5.5 times higher odds of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 among previously infected patients than among fully vaccinated patients [80].

• The Office of National Statistics in the United Kingdom used data from a large-scale longitudinal community survey of COVID-19 to compare the risk of infection among fully vaccinated, partially vaccinated, unvaccinated/previously infected, and unvaccinated/uninfected persons during two different periods 1) when Alpha was the predominant variant (December 2020–May 2021) and 2) when Delta was the predominant variant (May–August 2021) [81].

• Vaccination significantly reduced the risk of people testing positive during both the Alpha-dominant period and the Delta-dominant period.
• Vaccine effectiveness was reduced in the Delta-dominant period compared with the Alpha-dominant period, particularly in preventing infections with symptoms.
• Two doses of either Pfizer-BioNTech or Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccines provided a similar level of protection to prior natural infection when the Delta variant was dominant.
• Two doses of either vaccine provided significantly greater protection than one dose across all analyses.
Non-Medically Attended At-Home Self-Tests: (tests purchased over-the-counter without a prescription and conducted at home without telehealth oversight)

The following recommendations currently apply when an individual discloses they have tested positive via a non-medically attended At-Home Test:

- Cases reporting a positive Non-Medically Attended At-Home Test are recommended to seek confirmatory (PCR testing) but should be advised isolate, and to notify their close contacts about the exposure.

- LBOH are not required to conduct additional follow-up at this time for nonmedically attended home tests
Non-Medically Attended At-Home Tests: (tests purchased over-the-counter without a prescription and conducted at home without telehealth oversight)

- **Confirmatory testing (PCR) is recommended** for home testing. PCR specimens collected at the same time or within 2 days of the antigen test result override an antigen result if results are discordant (See [Discordant Test Results Follow-up Guidance](#)).

- **Cases with a positive non-medically attended At-Home Test should isolate** while pending the results of an appropriately timed confirmatory test.
  - If the case decides to NOT seek confirmatory testing or the confirmatory test was not collected within 2 days, they will need to isolate for 10 days from symptom onset (or test date if asymptomatic).
  - Utilize the first positive test date as Day 0 if both at-home and confirmatory testing results are available in an asymptomatic individual.

At this time, non-medically attended home tests should **not** be utilized for testing out of strict quarantine early or for returning to school following symptoms when a negative test is required.
**BinaxNOW SELF test vs. HOME test**

**SELF TEST:**
- No online guide (this is unobserved)
- No App for reporting is listed
- No Prescription: you can buy these anywhere over the counter.

**HOME TEST:**
- Certified video guide to supervise testing.
- App and reporting.
- Prescription home use.
The importance of obtaining an official PCR following a Self-Test:

• While there is utility in quick access to a self-test at home, it is important to note that those results are not official and are not officially documented. Following up to get an official PCR on record may be critical for several future scenarios:

  • Future hospital stays/surgeries often require a pre-screening COVID-19 test. A positive test can delay hospital activities if there is no documentation of earlier diagnosis.

  • 90-Day Quarantine exemptions in the case of close contact exposure do not apply if there is no documentation of earlier diagnosis.

  • Many travel destinations require negative test results. A positive test can delay your travel activities if there is no documentation of earlier diagnosis.

  • Not all antigens are equal in performance quality. You may NOT actually be a case. (You don’t want to put yourself or others at risk due to a false sense of immunity.)