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

Tools for LBOHs

October 26, 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

• MAVEN Updates
• CTC Timeline Reminder
• Review from Last Week
• Your FAQs
• The most important study of this pandemic

Looks like the bottom left pumpkin did their own “research”
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@ covid19.pih.org
CTC Supervisor Contact List
Higher Ed Contact List
Timeline for CTC Close

- The last day to send cases to the CTC is **Tuesday, November 30** (4 ½ weeks from today).
- Your Local Health Liaison (LHL) will be available through **Thursday, December 30**.
- The CTC will close **Friday, December 31**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>October</th>
<th>November</th>
<th>December</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 week</td>
<td>11/1</td>
<td>12/6</td>
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<td><strong>11/30</strong></td>
<td><strong>12/30</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Last day to send cases to CTC</td>
<td>End of LHL support</td>
<td>CTC closes</td>
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Today 10/26

Thanksgiving week

Winter holidays
MAVEN Updates for today, Tuesday, 10/26/2021

- 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
- Updated Tip Sheet on Addresses
- Sharing and Un-Sharing Cases
- MAVEN Tasks Review
  - How to create
  - How to manage
  - How to find them in your workflows
  - Check your MAVEN profile for correct email address
- Demographic Survey – reminder to complete this please
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
  - LBOH Case Report Forms (CRF) are pending

"A Gentle Reminder"
Immediate Notification workflow (COVID-19 Only)

- **UPDATE:** COVID-19 Immediate Notification Workflow - 1,049 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
Sharing Cases

**Step 1:** Navigate to the contact or case event you wish to share. You can either find it by clicking the View hyperlink next to “Linked Events/Contacts:” within the source case and finding it in the Linked Events table if you just created it as a linked event, or you can use the Search Event functionality found in the left-hand pane on the MAVEN home screen.

**Step 2:** Once you are in the event, click on the Share Event tab in the pane on the left.

**Step 3:** Under the Type dropdown, select View & Update Full. This will allow your team to have full read/write access to the event.

**Step 4:** Under the User Group dropdown, select your town. All towns begin with LBOH – and will be in alphabetical order. By selecting your town’s LBOH group, it will allow access to everyone who has MAVEN access in your town. Leave the User dropdown blank, and make sure Allow Delegation is unchecked. Use this same process for sharing with another town’s user group as well.

**Step 5:** Click Save

Congratulations! You have now shared that out-of-jurisdiction contact case with everyone in your town (or another town’s user group) that has MAVEN access. You will see this populated in the Currently Shared table. From there, click Dashboard to go back into the event.
Un-Sharing Cases

Step 1: Open your workflow – Shared Cases – Cases shared with me or my Group(s)
Step 2: Open an event/case from the workflow
Step 3: Check the Share Event Link
Step 4: Click the Unshare hyperlink in the Action column (look to the far right)
Step 5: Click Dashboard not Save button to return to main page

Congratulations! You have now unshared your event/case – once the workflow refreshes it will clear out of your workflow.
Are you setup to receive task emails?

Check MAVEN profile
Click Blue Button and then Edit Profile

Email for Tasks

Email for immediate disease notifications (COVID, HepA, Measles)
How do I task a case in MAVEN?

General Steps on how to create a task in MAVEN

1) Access the event you wish to task to another MAVEN user.
2) Once in the event, click on the **Tasks tab**. It can be found in the same section where you find the **Question Packages**.
How do I task a case in MAVEN?

3) Once you click on the **Tasks tab**, you will see a table titled **Tasks**. It may or may not be empty, depending on whether this case had been tasked to someone previously. To add a task, click the **Add Tasks** button.
How do I task a case in MAVEN?

4) You will be brought to a new window, where you will enter the task information. The first section to complete is the **Type**. You can select anything in the dropdown menu based on the type of task you’re assigning, but typically we recommend using the **Assignment** type.

You can assign Priority and Assign Dates (Due Date)
How do I task a case in MAVEN?

5) Next, complete the **Description** and **Notes** sections, based on what you would like the recipient(s) to do with the case.

**NOTE:** Please be aware that whatever you put in the **Description** will appear in the notification e-mail the recipient receives, so do not include personally identifiable information here.
How do I task a case in MAVEN?

6) Next, Assign to a user. In this dropdown menu, you will find every user in MAVEN. When you click on the Assign a user dropdown and hover your cursor over a name, you can begin typing the name of the recipient you wish to assign it to, and it will find them in the dropdown list.

If you would like, you can assign it to multiple users at once by assigning a case to a user group. For most practical purposes, you can assign a case to an entire town’s user group by clicking on the dropdown menu and scrolling down to the list of the cities and towns in Massachusetts. All dropdown lists are in alphabetical order, and all cities/towns are preceded with “LBOH –.” For example, if you would like to assign a case to Brookline, find “LBOH – Brookline” in the dropdown menu.
Things not to do in MAVEN for tasks

*Please do not select any other user groups except the LBOH Town Groups when assigning tasks.
How do I task a case in MAVEN?

7) After clicking **Save**, you will be brought back to the **Task tab** and will see your new task populating the table.
Task Emails

9) Once the task is assigned (after you click Save), the system will **send out an e-mail to the recipient letting them know that you sent them a task**. It will also begin populating your “Open Tasks Created by Me” workflow, which will allow you to keep track of tasks you’ve assigned out. Similarly, there is a workflow for “My Open Tasks” where you will see cases assigned to you. “My Open Tasks” is also where the task will appear for the recipient.

10) If you are on the receiving end of a task and wish to complete it (to remove it from your workflow) you only need to do one thing. Go into the task (either by going to your task workflow and clicking on it, or by going into the case you were tasked and going to the task tab) and click the **Update Task** button.
MAVEN Task Workflows

- Don’t forget you can click the Show Empty Workflow button to see all workflows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Total Count</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Last Update</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>My Groups' Open Tasks</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>02/23/2021 09:23 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My Open Tasks</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>02/23/2021 09:23 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My Overdue Tasks</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>02/23/2021 09:23 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open Tasks Created by Me</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Medium</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Medium</td>
<td>02/23/2021 09:23 AM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Circle with numbers tell you how many are assigned to you.

If a date is assigned.
Another way to view tasks

Another way to view and edit/interact with tasks is the Profile Management tab from the Main dashboard.

Then click the Tasks sub tab to view the Task window.
Task Management and Actions

- Tasks for selected events
- My tasks (specifically assigned to me)
- Status (pending, in progress, completed)
- Action (edit, delete)
- Start Task hyperlink
Updated Jurisdictional Guidance and Address Tip Sheet

- We have received several questions related to jurisdictional assignment of college/university/boarding school COVID-19 cases
  - Cases should be counted in the city or town where they live for the majority of the year
  - Further detail and FAQs will be emailed later this week

- Updated address tip sheet
  - Added detail on official address, temporary address, and out of state notifications
  - Updated document will be emailed and posted to the Help Section later this week
Reminder: Please fill out survey for MAVEN users on collection of demographic information by Friday, 10/29

Good morning,

The Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences is working with the Occupational Health Surveillance Program to evaluate demographic information collected in MAVEN. We are interested in improving the collection and use of information related to employment such as occupation, employer name, and employer address. As part of this effort, we are interested in learning about how often various demographic questions are collected as well as any barriers to collecting information from cases.

We have developed a quick survey to learn more about data collection practices. The survey can be accessed through this link: https://mdph.checkboxonline.com/MAVEN-collection-of-occupation-and-employer-info

If you could complete this short survey by Friday, October 29, that would be greatly appreciated. The survey will take less than 10 minutes to complete, and findings will inform training and education materials regarding collection and use of employment related information.

- 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**
  - 09/29/21 Updated Quarantine Guidance:
    - **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.
  - 12/7/2020: Isolation Guidance Document

- **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)
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 Oct. 26, 2021

We Last Met October 19, 2021:

- CTC Timeline – John Welch
- MassNotify – Rosa Ergas, Ian Cutler and Laura Jones
- MAVEN Updates & Reminders
- Updated Quarantine Guidance
  - The PDF quarantine documents and the full Quarantine page have been updated (with a date of September 29, 2021).
- Updated Testing FAQ on MAVEN Help
- New Contact Monitoring Wizard
  - New separate wizards for Cases and Contacts to simplify follow-up.

- 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.

Better Wording in Quarantine Guidance on MASS.GOV for Fully VACCINATED Close Contacts

- The PDF quarantine documents and the full Quarantine page have been updated (with a date of September 29, 2021).

  - “Even if you are not required to quarantine because you are fully vaccinated or because you have had COVID-19 in the last 90 days, you should still monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following an exposure. If you experience symptoms, separate yourself from others, seek testing, and contact your healthcare provider.” - updated Quarantine Guidance 9/8/21

- NEW: Abbott BinaxNOW no longer specified for use as the antigen test when exiting strict quarantine early on Day 8. - updated Quarantine Guidance 9/29/21
### Options for Shortened Strict Quarantine Period

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPTIONS</th>
<th>CRITERIA</th>
<th>ACTIVE MONITORING</th>
<th>RESIDUAL RISK</th>
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</table>
| 7 Days of Strict Quarantine | **Release on Day 8 after last exposure IF:**  
  - A test (either PCR or antigen) taken on Day 5 or later is negative; AND  
  - The individual has not experienced any symptoms up to that point; AND  
  - The individual conducts active monitoring through Day 14 | Individual 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 the public health authority overseeing their quarantine and get tested. | Approximately 5% residual risk of disease development |
| Test Required            |                                               | No Symptoms                                                                       |                                                                                 |
| 10 Days of Strict Quarantine | **Release on Day 11 after last exposure 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 | No Symptoms                                                                       | Approximately 1% residual risk of disease development |
| No Test                  |                                               |                                                                                  |                                                                                 |
| 14 Days of Strict Quarantine | **Release on Day 15 after last exposure IF:**  
  - The individual has experienced ANY symptoms during the quarantine period EVEN if they have a negative COVID-19 test; OR  
  - The individual indicates they are unwilling or unable to conduct active monitoring. | No additional active monitoring required                                          | Maximal risk reduction                                                                              |
|                          |                                               |                                                                                  |                                                                                 |


9/29/2021 Update

Specific “BinaxNOW” Antigen Test is no longer required
COVID-19 Testing Frequently Asked Questions

• The testing FAQ has been updated with more information on testing scenarios and interpreting results, discordant labs, etc. Please take a look.

• COVID-19 Testing FAQs Ver 2.0 Oct 13, 2021
MAVEN Wizard Updates

• COVID-19 Events in MAVEN now have a **NEW Contact Notification Wizard**!

  • This should simplify data entry and help you distinguish needed variables for contacts vs. needed variables for cases.

  • Data Entry for contact events is really very minimal and use of the Contact Notification Wizard will help you zero in on those most applicable to the notification.
Contact Monitoring Question Package

• This Question Package was due for an overhaul.
  • It was originally designed prior to the pandemic when we were predominately monitoring returning travelers (and did not yet have local cases or transmission).
  • Additionally, this question package couldn’t track multiple exposures and quarantines over time.
    • Some of this has been resolved due to the new 90 day event time period, but now we have added additional repeat options for new exposures within the 90 day window.
  • Quarantine now has multiple exemptions. These can also be noted in the updated question package.

If you go directly into Question Package 6., all the same old questions (plus some new ones) are still there.
Contact Monitoring Question Package

• Many of these questions are no longer applicable at this stage of the pandemic, but could not be removed entirely from this question package for various reasons.

• However, the Contact Notification Wizard has been designed with a simplified approach in mind.

• Resultingly, particularly for CONTACTS, the wizard may be the most efficient way to view and enter contact data.

If you go to the CONTACT WIZARD, you will only see the most important variables.
Contact Monitoring Question Package

- **Monitoring Status:**
  - **Completed:** you have completed your notification and are no longer following up with this contact.
    - Select COMPLETED also for contacts that you have determined are exempt from quarantine.
  - **In Progress:** you are still monitoring this contact.
  - **Transferred:** You have updated the address to OUT OF STATE and MDPH will contact the out of state jurisdiction. (you should notify in-state town transfers directly and do not need to use Transferred.)
  - **Lost to Follow-up:** You are not able to contact this individual to provide notification.
  - **Other:** other outcome. (Quarantine exempt individuals should be marked COMPLETED.)
Contact Monitoring Question Package

**Exposure Dates:**

- **Latest Exposure Date:** This grayed out variable will be auto-filled in by the most recent exposure.

- **Last Potential Exposure date:** Day 0 of exposure for this contact.
  - The first option is for the first exposure. If there are additional exposures in the 90 days, you can select Exposed again? = Yes, and additional question blocks will appear each time.

New Entries will appear down here. The top LATEST Exposure Date Variable will update with most recent date.
Contact Monitoring Question Package

- **Quarantine Options:** Select intended quarantine option or quarantine exemption.
  - 14 Day Strict Quarantine.
  - 10 Day Strict Quarantine.
  - 7 Day Strict Quarantine.
- **Recovery Exemption:** Contact is within 90 days of recent diagnosis.
- **Fully Vaccinated Exemption:** Contact was fully vaccinated (≥ 14 days from date of final dose) prior to exposure.
- **Other:** Other exemptions – you can put DESE exemptions here or other situations as they evolve.
Let’s Review Some FAQs

YOUR QUESTIONS

GIVE THEM TO ME NOW
MAVEN Reports

• You should be utilizing reports daily for your casework.
• You can also utilize reports to help determine data cleaning needs.
Can you please review how to run a report for cases that are open only so we can close them out:

- **Tip Sheet** with running your top 7 MAVEN reports is here in MAVEN Help:

Run a list of Probable and Confirmed Cases
Can you please review how to run a report for cases that are open only so we can close them out?

- Be sure to leave “Step 4” with nothing selected if you are looking for incomplete events.
- Otherwise, you will be selecting only cases with the actual variable “NO” selected (not things that are incomplete).

Run a list of Probable and Confirmed Cases
Vaccines

ME WAITING FOR MY TURN TO GET THE VACCINE.
Documenting Vaccination Among Cases

So Important!!!

- Please complete the Vaccine Question Package in MAVEN to track vaccination history data.
- Ask your cases if they have been vaccinated and complete the Vaccine Question Package questions.
  - You can also check MIIS.
- This information will be very important as we track cases going forward.
Documenting Vaccination Among Cases

If not vaccinated, why not received?

• **Missed Opportunity**
  • They didn’t go back for their second dose.
  • Haven’t gotten around to it.

• **Patient/Parent Refusal**

• **Philosophical Objection**

• **Religious Objection**

• **Underage**
  • Select if <12 yrs

**NOT VACCINATED is just as important to be SURE to document (Select No Vaccine Administered).** Otherwise we don’t know if the person is not vaccinated or just never was asked.
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)
Vaccine FAQs

• Will we be tracking third doses (and boosters) for vaccines/will the fields be expanded in the QP? Will the MIIS interface be adjusted to pull these over?

  • A. Remember, MAVEN Vaccine Question Package has an Add New button that appears as soon as you select your first vaccine, so you can add several vaccine entries if there are multiple administrations.

  • Additionally, if there is a perfect match in MIIS, it will pull over all COVID vaccine doses for the person that are available (which could include booster doses).

  • Vaccines should be included in a MAVEN event at the point of the disease event.
    • You should not go back to old cases and add new boosters (if they didn’t have those doses at the time of disease).
What if you are exposed after your final dose (before Day 14)?

Even if you have had that second dose, you are NOT fully vaccinated until Day 14 afterwards.

- Any exposure before Day 14 requires a quarantine.
- Any exposure on Day 14 or after would have a quarantine exemption.
- If you start your quarantine and THEN become fully vaccinated while in your quarantine (reach Day 14), you still have to finish your designated quarantine period.

Exposure & Quarantine

MUST Quarantine because exposure occurred prior to being fully vaccinated.

Fully Vaccinated Day 14

Must still complete the quarantine from the earlier exposure. Can pursue a shortened quarantine option like the 7 day Strict Quarantine (with neg test on or after Day 5)

Not Fully Vaccinated.

Any exposure here (<13 days) still requires full quarantine.

Quarantine Exemption for future exposures begins.
Vaccine FAQs

• Q. Should a person who had Covid wait for 90 days before becoming vaccinated?

  • A. This is where I go for ANY vaccine related question: CDC’s Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Approved or Authorized in the United States

  • “People with known current SARS-CoV-2 infection should defer vaccination at least until the person has recovered from the acute illness (if the person had symptoms) and they have met criteria to discontinue isolation.

  • Current evidence about the optimal timing between SARS-CoV-2 infection and vaccination is insufficient to inform guidance.

  • This recommendation for vaccination applies to people who experience SARS-CoV-2 infection before receiving any vaccine dose and those who experience SARS-CoV-2 infection after the first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine but before receipt of subsequent doses.”
Vaccine FAQs

• Q. Has the definition of fully vaccinated changed for those who are eligible for a third dose/booster dose?

• A. No. In general, people are considered fully vaccinated:
  
  • 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines, or
  • 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine

• This would apply for our definition of Breakthrough disease and for any exemptions to quarantine for fully vaccinated people at this time.
Vaccine FAQs

• **Q.** If a close contact develops symptoms but is fully vaccinated, is there any quarantine requirement?

• **A.** No, a fully vaccinated contact would not be required to quarantine, however, if they develop symptoms they should immediately isolate and seek testing to rule out COVID. If they test negative for COVID, they could return to activities after they recover from their illness.

• “Even if you are not required to quarantine because you are fully vaccinated or because you have had COVID-19 in the last 90 days, you should still monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following an exposure. If you experience symptoms, separate yourself from others, seek testing, and contact your healthcare provider.” - updated Quarantine Guidance 9/8/21
Healthcare Workers

• Q. If your case is a health care worker, can they have a shorter isolation? In the past I remember essential workers had some odd exception

• A. No.

  • Healthcare workers who are close contacts may be able to have a quarantine exemption for work depending on extent of exposure, staff capacity, testing capabilities, etc. but there is no exception to isolation.

  • Positive healthcare workers are still required to isolate and we recommend the symptom-based or time-based isolation of 10 days.

• Remember, while people can sometimes be exempt or shorten their quarantine, once you become a case, you must isolate. A case is a case is a case.
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.

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.
Quarantine Calculations

• Q. Does the quarantine countdown begin on their most recent exposure to the case, or does their Q begin the day they are informed that they have been a contact?

• A. The Day 0 of a 14-day quarantine (or reduced strict quarantine) should begin on the date of last exposure. In nearly ALL situations, you will be speaking with a contact a few days into that 14 day period and some days of their quarantine will have passed without them knowing it and actively being in quarantine. However, date of notification should not affect the end date of quarantine (that date remains constant based upon the date of exposure).
Quarantine Calculations

Q. So say I'm in quarantine, and it's day 8. I then develop symptoms & test positive. Am I then considered infectious for the next 10 days?

A. Yes. Once you switch from being a contact to a case, you switch from Quarantine to a new set of dates for your isolation (based upon your specific situation (looking at onset and/or test date)).

Even if you become a case on your very last day of quarantine, you “get no credit for time served in quarantine.” Isolation for cases is another 10 days, regardless of quarantine history.
Testing FAQs

• Q. If a rapid Ag test returns positive and sent for PCR follow-up but then the PCR returns negative two days after is the positive or negative result going to stand? Is there a contact tracing need?

• A. If the PCR was collected within two calendar days of the antigen test, it will overrule the antigen test. If you identify this situation, you should email the MAVEN ID# to isishelp@mass.gov to revoke the case based upon the PCR timing.

  • Contact Tracing should be initiated based upon a positive antigen test while PCR is pending. (You never know when OR if, a PCR will be obtained, and if it would be a different result)

  • If you do end up quarantining a contact based upon a positive antigen and subsequent negative PCR, the contact can discontinue quarantine at that time and is no longer a contact.
Close Contact

• Q. Please clarify if someone is still a close contact within 6 feet indoors if both are wearing masks.

  • A. Cloth mask wearing is a risk reduction tool but does not mean no exposure occurred. The hope would be that masks reduced the spread of respiratory droplets while two individuals are in close contact, but the contact is still a close contact if it meets our definition.
    • Separately, there may be situations and settings where masked individuals might have an exemption to quarantine. But they are still, technically, a close contact.

• Q. Is it close contact if they are all vaccinated and wearing masks?

  • A. Yes, if they meet the definition of close contact based upon the exposure, then they are a close contact. However, in most situations, a fully vaccinated close contact would be exempt from quarantine.
MAVEN Questions

• Q. Does a vaccinated close contact need to be entered into Maven? Does a close contact who is not required to quarantine need to be entered into Maven?

• A. As a best practice, we would recommend entering contacts into MAVEN so you have a place to document your work and that you notified the contact, as well as confirm/document their quarantine outcome (which you can now indicate an exemption).

• The Contact Monitoring Wizard hopefully makes this easier and faster.
Testing Question

• Q. If a symptomatic student tests positive with an Antigen test, do we contact trace?

• A. Yes. All official tests (antigen or PCR) would indicate contact tracing.
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, 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.
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.

**Frequently Asked Questions, Week of September 20, 2021**
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.

Researchers found that those who viewed memes reported "higher levels of humor" and more positive feelings, according to a news release from the American Psychological Association, which publishes the journal.
STUDY: Consuming memes during the COVID pandemic: Effects of memes and meme type on COVID-related stress and coping efficacy.

• The Study Found:
  • Those who viewed memes that specifically referenced the pandemic felt less stress than those who viewed non-pandemic-related memes.
  • They also felt more capable of coping with the COVID-19 crisis and were better at processing information.
  • And they were also less likely to be stressed about the pandemic than those who didn't view memes related to COVID-19 at all, researchers concluded.