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

Tools for LBOHs

September 14, 2021

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Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences
MA Department of Public Health
Topics Today

- MAVEN ePostcard went out Thursday Evening
  - New case definition, effective September 1, 2021 – will not be applied retroactively
  - Will impact case counting prospectively
  - Brief summary of Non-Medically Attended At-Home Testing talking points, with further guidance pending

- Better Wording update to mass.gov Quarantine Guidance:
  - Fully vaccinated symptomatic contacts should isolate and seek testing.
  - Your Quarantine FAQs

- Serology Testing (antibody results) and follow-up
  - What follow-up is needed for serology results that generate suspect cases?

- DESE Updates:
  - DESE stated last week that they will not conduct quarantine based upon home tests. All students and staff reporting a positive test should follow-up with a provider-observed confirmatory test.
    - Mask Requirements
    - FAQs (explaining some key Test & Stay questions)
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@ovid19.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, 9/14/2021

- COVID-19 Case Definition Update & ePostcard Guidance
- LBOH Immediate Workflow – COVID-19 events only – please check your workflow TODAY and clear out the workflow
- LBOH & Higher Ed/Boarding Schools (Kate Hamdan) – email maventraining@mass.gov – training is underway for those users who have been approved and submitted their user request forms
- Communication Events – what are they and how do you access them?
COVID-19 Case Definition Update

• New case definition, **effective September 1, 2021**
• Not retroactive to **before September 1** but will impact case counting prospectively
• Reminder that case definitions are used for surveillance not clinical purposes
Summary of Revisions

• Specifies criteria for enumerating new cases in persons previously classified as a probable or confirmed case (i.e., reinfections)
  • Individuals who test positive again more than 90 days after being a case of COVID-19, will be automatically counted as a new case
• Includes genomic sequencing in laboratory criteria
• Updates clinical criteria indicative of infection
• Updates epidemiologic linkage criteria and the definition of close contact
• Acknowledges testing performed in non-traditional settings such as work sites, temporary testing sites, and homes
Case Classification

- **Suspect**
  - Positive antibody test
  - Antigen tests via autopsy specimens
  - *PCR or antigen tests performed without CLIA oversight — i.e. over the counter tests performed without any medical oversight*

- **Probable**
  - Positive antigen test
  - Meets vital records criteria

- **Confirmed**
  - Positive PCR or genomic sequencing result

**Note:** Suspect cases will not be included in official case counts
Example Event
COVID event with multiple cases

- Three COVID example events
  - 2020 – 5/19/2021 event date
  - 2021 – 6/1/2021 event date
  - 2021 – 9/3/2021 event date
- Green coinfection link will show for the three cases
- Click on the (View) link for each case to toggle between cases
- Click on the Name of the case to see all affiliated cases with the person in MAVEN.
Immediate Notification workflow (COVID-19 Only)

- **UPDATE:** COVID-19 Immediate Notification Workflow - 1,060 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
Action Needed – Higher Education MAVEN Approvals

- Reminder sent to schools who have not yet submitted approval sheets 8/16
- Plan and Communication with IHE/Boarding Schools
- Email maventraining@mass.gov with questions

Follow up: Higher Education MAVEN Approvals - Fall 2021

Dear Higher Education, Boarding School and Local Health Partners,

As a follow up to our request to add/approve Higher Education and Boarding School MAVEN users for the 2021-2022 school year – attached please find a list of schools whose Excel approval sheets we have not yet received. Local health departments must complete the attached approval spreadsheet as soon as possible and send it to maventraining@mass.gov. Instructions for completing this spreadsheet are below.

If we do not receive a submission we will assume that no institute of higher education users will need access to MAVEN for the upcoming school year and any higher ed users with current access will be removed on September 1st. The local board of health will be primarily responsible for case investigation and follow up for these schools at that time.

How to use the approval spreadsheet:
- For schools using MAVEN – Use the ‘Approve Existing Users’ tab to review all existing MAVEN users and note (Yes/No) whether they are approved for continued MAVEN use for the 2021-2022 school year.
- For schools using MAVEN – Use the ‘Add Approved New Users’ tab to note any new users that will need access to MAVEN for the 2021-2022 school year. The MAVEN training team will review and follow up with the new users around training.
- For local schools regardless of MAVEN status – Use the ‘Plan’ tab for 21-22 School Year tab to mark the primary entity (state) responsible for case investigation and follow up this school year. Please also make any edits to the local board of health primary contact using this sheet.
- Please save your file with the following naming convention – IHE MAVEN User Approval Sheet_School_Name_School_Date

Once submitted, DPH will reach out to new approved users with information to complete the User Request Form and begin their training process. If you have any questions, please email maventraining@mass.gov.

Thank you
Action Needed – Higher Education MAVEN Approvals Still Pending as of 9/14/21

• Berkshire Community College
• Bridgewater State University
• Eastern Nazarene College
• Elms College
• Gordon College
• Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
• Holyoke Community College
• Lawrence Memorial Hospital School of Nursing
• Massachusetts Bay Community College
• Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA)
• Massachusetts Maritime Academy
• Massachusetts School of Law
• Massasoit Community College
• Middlesex Community College
• Montserrat College of Art
• Mount Holyoke College
• Mount Wachusett Community College
• Nichols College
• Northern Essex Community College
• Quincy College
• Signature Healthcare Brockton Hospital School of Nursing
• Tufts - Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine
• University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth
• Wheaton College
What are **Communication Events** for LBOH

**Communication Events Video**

- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
  - Understanding Date Fields and Selecting Date Ranges, Ver 1.0, October 2020
  - Tasking Cases, Ver 1.0, October 2020
  - Cluster naming conventions, Ver 1.0, September 2020
  - How to add attachments?
    - What are Communication Events and how do I access/edit mine? (PDF / Video)
  - How to run a report?
  - How to search for an event?
  - How to share an event?
  - How to check and clear your workflows for routine diseases?
  - How to plan for backup coverage?
  - How to use a wizard?
  - How to Investigate Acute Hepatitis C Cases?
  - Follow up for Suspect Cases of Tickborne Disease
  - How to link two existing cases in MAVEN?
Finding/Reviewing/Updating Communication Events for LBOH

Once you select Communication event and enter a town/city name click on the Search button to see the Communication event for your own town/city or another one you need to contact.
Get the Training Basics Here:

**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

- 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).
  - 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 Form (1 Contact Extended Calculation Tool)**
- **Close Contact Form (2 Contacts)**
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: better guidance for symptomatic vaccinated close contacts and what to do.
    - 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: 10/21/2020 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)

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Q&A & Resources:

- **Lab Results Questions**
  - Updated in June

- **MA Travel Advisory is Gone.**
  - Updated Quarantine Guidance 9/8/21!

- **Helpful to get Docs to test Kids**
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: 03/16/2021 - 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.
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.

• 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 Sept. 14, 2021

We Last Met September 7, 2021:

- **MAVEN Updates: Updated Event Time Period & Case Definition:** Gillian Haney (ISIS)
- **Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS):** Meagan Burns (ISIS) and Andrew Lang (State Lab)
- **LBOH Immediate Workflow** – COVID-19 events only – please check your workflow TODAY and clear out the workflow
- **LBOH & Higher Ed/Boarding Schools (Kate Hamdan):** email maventraining@mass.gov – training is underway for those users who have been approved and submitted their user request forms
- **Communication Events:** what are they and how do you access them?

- **DESE Updates:**
  - Updated *Mask Requirements*
  - Updated *FAQs* (explaining some key Test & Stay questions)

COVID-19 Case Definition Update
September 2021

Overview

- New case definition, effective September 1, 2021 – will not be applied retroactively
- Will impact case counting prospectively
- Reminder: case definitions are used for surveillance not clinical purposes
- Brief summary of Non-Medically Attended At-Home Testing talking points, with further guidance pending

Summary of Important Revisions:

- Specifies criteria for enumerating new cases in persons previously classified as a probable or confirmed case (i.e., reinfections)
  - Individuals who test positive again more than 90 days after previously being reported as a case of COVID-19 will be automatically counted as a new case and new event will be created in MAVEN
  - Genomic sequencing results are included in the laboratory criteria
  - Acknowledges testing performed without any medical oversight

Updated Case Classification:

- **Suspect**
  - Positive antibody test
  - Antigen tests via autopsy specimens
  - PCR or antigen tests performed without CLIA oversight – i.e. over the counter tests performed without any medical oversight

- **Probable**
  - Positive antigen test
  - Meets vital records criteria

- **Confirmed**
  - Positive PCR or genomic sequencing result

MAVEN Online Help

- Expand all
- Collapse all
- COVID-19 Materials/Training
- COVID-19 Vaccine Training Folder
- General Information
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- Division of Global Populations (DGP)
- ePostcards/Webinars

Last Updated: 9.9.2021
Non-Medically Attended At-Home Tests: (tests purchased over-the-counter without a prescription and conducted at home without telehealth oversight)

MDPH is working to establish a standardized approach to identifying and tracking non-medically attended tests in MAVEN. Further guidance is forthcoming.

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 to 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.
Antigen Tests: Follow this table

• Q. How do we know when an antigen should be confirmed with a PCR?

• A. Consult this guidance table for how to follow up on Antigen Positive individuals who also obtain a PCR test.

• If the PCR is collected at the same time or within 2 days of the Antigen Test, the PCR result trumps the antigen result.

http://www.maventrainingsite.com/maven-help/pdf/Antigen%20Results%20Follow-up%20Guidance_ver1.0_August_10.pdf
Antigen+ & PCR-

- Any negative PCR collected within 2 days before or after will trump the Antigen result.

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<tr>
<th>- Day 4</th>
<th>- Day 3</th>
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This case is presumed negative. Revoke Case.**

** Health agent should contact isishelp@mass.gov or the Division of Epidemiology at 617-983-6800 with MAVEN ID# for cases requiring changes in surveillance case classification status. Be sure to update notes in your MAVEN cases accordingly.
Antigen+ & PCR-  

- Any negative PCR collected > 3 days before or after Positive Antigen does not change follow-up.

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Negative PCRs collected so far from the antigen test do not give us enough information to trump the +Antigen. Treat as a case and follow up.
COVID-19 LBOH Suspect line list Report

If you would like to find out which cases are classified as Suspect for your jurisdiction(s) please utilize a new report, we created for LBOH.

This report will be activated in the next few days and you should see it in your report dropdown menu.
How to view additional events in MAVEN for a person with multiple events for different time periods:

Updated COVID-19 Case Classification

- Documentation that has the updated case classification for COVID-19
- You can find the Case Classification document in our MAVEN Help Section under the Case Classification Manual folder.

If you have questions regarding the COVID-19 Case Definition Update, please email isishelp@state.me.us or contact the MAVEN help desk at 617-983-6801.

Last Updated: 9.9.2021
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 8, 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
Quarantine – Your Questions

• Q. Could you please provide an update on symptomatic Close contacts? Are they 14 days regardless of an alternative Dx?

• A. When considering quarantine options, remember that the current state quarantine options are still in effect for every setting except K-12 or healthcare workers settings.
  
  • It is important to not confuse DESE guidance for students in school settings with state-wide guidance for the community at large.
  
  • There has been no change to the standard three strict quarantine options for identified close contacts in the community. The options remain 7, 10, and 14 days.
    
    • The 14 day option is the only thing available for anyone who demonstrates symptoms during their quarantine, regardless of alternative diagnosis.
## 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 Abbot BinaxNOW 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 |
| **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 |
| **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 |

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**Occupational Exposure & Return to Work Guidance**  
Calculating Quarantine Period

Calculate Quarantine Key Dates for Current Contact (Attendee/Staff Member):

<table>
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<th>Final Exposure</th>
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Final Exposure to confirmed case is Day 0

7 Days in Strict Quarantine

10 Days in Strict Quarantine

Negative Test, No Symptoms, & 7 Day Strict Quarantine Option:
- May obtain a test beginning Day 5 = / / __
- If no symptoms develop & appropriately timed negative test result is received, may exit Strict Quarantine beginning Day 8 = / / __

Active Self-Monitoring is
Day 8 = / / __ through Day 14 = / / __

No Symptoms & 10 Day Strict Quarantine Option (Test-Free):
- If no symptoms, may exit Strict Quarantine beginning Day 11 = / / __

Active Self-Monitoring is
Day 11 = / / __ through Day 14 = / / __

If Contact has ANY symptoms, even if joined by a Negative Test, must complete the full 14 days in Strict Quarantine.
Quarantine – Your Questions

Q. How do we apply the 3-6 ft exemption from quarantine in other settings?

A. You don’t. The list of exemptions to quarantine given in the DESE protocol only apply to school settings. (So you wouldn’t use them in the community) and the exemptions themselves are very specific. Make sure to read the details.

DESE Protocol:

- *Classroom close contacts:* An individual who is exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual in the classroom while both individuals were masked, so long as the individuals were spaced at least 3 feet apart, is exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols.

So, you are only exempt as a fully masked case and fully masked contact in the classroom (not at lunch, not at another club activity, sport, afterschool group, etc.)
COVID-19 Serology Tests (Antibodies)

Q: What does a positive antibody test mean?

• A: If you have a positive test result on a SARS-CoV-2 antibody test, it is possible that you have recently or previously had COVID-19. There is also a chance that the positive result is wrong, known as a false positive. False positive tests may occur:

  • Because antibody tests may detect coronaviruses other than SARS-CoV-2, such as those that cause the common cold.

  • When testing is done in a population without many cases of COVID-19 infections. These types of tests work best in populations with higher rates of infection.

Source: FDA & Serology Testing
What to do about Serology positive Suspect Cases?

- Serology testing is looking for antibodies to the Corona Virus, and positive antibodies are classified as “SUSPECT” cases in MAVEN.

- These tests shouldn’t be used to assess needs for vaccination or success of vaccination.
  - Antibody testing is not currently recommended to assess for immunity to COVID-19 following COVID-19 vaccination or to assess the need for vaccination in an unvaccinated person. Since vaccines induce antibodies to specific viral protein targets, post-vaccination serologic test results will be negative in persons without history of previous natural infection if the test used does not detect antibodies induced by the vaccine.

Interim Guidelines for COVID-19 Antibody Testing March 17, 2021
Serology + Suspect Cases

Background: Positive serologies will create SUSPECT events in MAVEN.

- There is NOT an expectation that LBOH follow up on Serology Positive cases at this time.
  - However, if you choose to follow up, guidance for LBOH is here: LBOH Lab Result Follow-up Guidance
    - Summary, ask patient if they had symptoms in last 14 days.
      - If Yes, recommend PCR test and follow-up accordingly.
      - If No recent symptoms, no further follow-up recommended at this time.

- Clarification on Suspect (serology positive) cases in MAVEN: LBOH should NOT sign off in the Admin Question Packages at this time.
  - IF you acknowledge Step 1, it doesn’t move a suspect out of any workflows currently so will only hinder notifications later if the case becomes Probable or Confirmed (you wouldn't see it in your Confirmed/Probable Workflows or possibly your reports if it has already been acknowledged previously).
  - So there is no need to sign off on a SUSPECT case, and we would not recommend that you do it at all.
# 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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Listed in Lab Tab as follows:</td>
<td>Listed in Lab Tab as follows:</td>
<td>Listed in Lab Tab as follows:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 2019-nCoV Real-time RT-PCR (PCR)</td>
<td>- SARS-CoV-2 Ag (Antigen Test)</td>
<td>- SARS-CoV-2 IgM (Serology IgM specific)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- SARS coronavirus 2 RdRp gene (PCR RAPID)</td>
<td></td>
<td>- SARS-CoV-2 IgG (Serology IgG specific)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Panel Tests that Include COVID-19:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>- SARS-CoV-2 IgA (Serology IgA specific)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 2019-NCOV RNA PNL XXX NAA+PROBE</td>
<td></td>
<td>- SARS-CoV-2 IgG + IgM (Serology Antibody Type Unspecified)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Flu A/Flu B/SARS COVID-2/SARS-related coronavirus RNA panel</td>
<td></td>
<td>- SARS-CoV-2 TCRB Bld Ql Seq (T-cell receptor beta (TCRB) gene)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Resp virus Pnl XXX PCR</td>
<td></td>
<td>- SARS coronavirus 2 spike protein RBD Ab.neut : PrThr : Pt : Ser/Plas:Ord:IA (Serology for antibodies against spike protein)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Positive Molecular Test:**
Case Classification = CONFIRMED

**Positive Antigen Test:**
Case Classification = PROBABLE

**Positive Antibody Test:**
Case Classification = SUSPECT

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DESE (K-12 COVID-19 Response Protocol)

• **New Test and Stay Program** will allow asymptomatic close contacts to remain in school and participate in sports and extracurriculars so long as they:
  
  • take a rapid antigen test daily,
  • wear a mask, (now required for everyone)
  • and follow other guidelines as noted in the document (quarantine at home on weekends in that 7 days & conduct active monitoring for full 14 days).

• For close contacts participating in the Test and Stay program only:
  
  • It is recommended to maintain 3 feet of distance when masks cannot be worn (i.e. during meals).
  
  • This should not be construed as a broad physical distancing requirement or recommendation; it is only in place as part of this single, narrow protocol.

If districts do not have Test and Stay available, or an individual or family chooses not to participate:
  • Close contact will need to quarantine at home for at least 7 days from the point of exposure (Normal home quarantine options)
8. Can individuals identified as a close contact while at home (i.e., non-school based close contact) return to school and participate in the Test and Stay program?

A. The Test and Stay program is intended for school-based close contacts, only. Individuals identified as a close contact of an individual outside of school should follow Protocol B-2 or B-3 in the SY22 DESE/DPH Protocols for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios.

So based upon this FAQ, kids exposed outside of school (at home, due to family, due to outside school activities) would not be eligible for the Test and Stay Program and must instead utilize the standard quarantine options.
DESE FAQ on Protocols & Test & Stay

- **FAQ Aug 20, 2021 (Revised August 25th FAQ), 2021**

- **9. Can an individual who is identified as a close contact still participate in sports and extracurricular activities?**

  - **A.** Asymptomatic close contacts will follow [Protocol B: Protocol for asymptomatic close contacts](#). For school-sponsored events and sports that take place on non-school days, testing is necessary on those days for close contacts to participate. If these close contacts do not consent to testing, or if testing is not available, individuals may not participate.
10. How many days will an individual be tested during the Test & Stay program?

A. The duration of the Test and Stay program is 7 days from the date of exposure. Some of these days could be non-school days (i.e., weekends or holidays). Testing is only required on school days, unless the individual participates in school-sponsored sports or extracurricular activities that fall on a non-school day (see question 8, above).

If the 7th day falls over a non-school day, the individual must be tested on the morning of their return to school. On the 8th day, a student will exit the Test and Stay protocol, assuming all tests were negative, and they remain asymptomatic.
DESE Protocol Language

Our Question: Can you do anything else during your 7 days of Test and Stay participation after an in-school exposure?

• “Individuals who are part of the Test and Stay protocols may be eligible to participate in school sports and extracurricular activities, provided that they are in compliance with the applicable protocol. For events and sports that take place on non-school days, testing will still be required on those days to participate.

• As part of Test and Stay, quarantine is still strongly recommended for individuals outside of school settings.”

• Protocols Page 6.