



Town of Bedford

97 McMahon Road

Bedfordps.org

COVID-19 Update

If you need this document translated, please call your child's school principal - Si necesita este documento traducido, por favor comuníquese con la escuela de su hijo - Se você precisa este documento traduzido, entre em contato com a escola dos seus filhos - Si vous avez besoin de traduire ce document, s'il vous plaît contacter l'école de votre enfant - 如果你需要这份文件翻译，请联系您的孩子的学校 - إذا كنت تحتاج /تحتاجين إلى ترجمة هذه الوثيقة إلى اللغة العربية يرجى الاتصال بمدرسة طفلك/طفلتك، -

September 20, 2021

- **One (1) new COVID-19 positive case at Bedford High School (BHS Case #4).**
- **This case does not appear to be connected or related to previous cases identified in the schools.**
- **Please review our COVID-19 Protocols documents at [BPS COVID-19 Dashboard](#)**
- **Please sign up for Symptomatic testing, Routine COVID safety checks, and our “Test and Stay” Protocol [HERE](#)**
- **Symptomatic and Routine COVID safety checks will begin as soon as possible. Please sign up now to assist CIC in rostering, supplying, and supporting the Bedford Public Schools with our COVID testing program.**

Dear parents, caregivers, and guardians:

A new case/cases of COVID-19 have been reported. Please see the number of case/cases and school/schools above. We have completed contact tracing and the appropriate families and staff have been notified. We are following the latest DESE protocols regarding close contacts and will be implementing DESE's test and stay protocols for any school close contacts identified. Please see our [district website](#) for more information on contact tracing and COVID-19 scenarios. To see a dashboard of current and total BPS cases for this school year please visit [Bedford COVID-19 Statistics Page](#)

We continue to follow the latest DESE guidance on close contact notification. Individuals in the classroom within 6 feet are considered a close contact, however certain close contacts are exempted from testing and quarantine protocols. This includes, asymptomatic, fully vaccinated close contacts, classroom close contacts provided both individuals were masked and at least 3 feet apart, and bus close contacts provided individuals were masked and bus windows were open. All close contacts will be notified by the school nurses or Bedford Health Department. For more information please see the [MA DESE COVID Site](#).

In an effort to keep children in school, an asymptomatic student, identified as a close contact within 3 feet of a COVID positive case within the school setting, will be able to take advantage of the Test and Stay protocol. Test and Stay enables asymptomatic, COVID negative students to attend school and school related activities. As part of Test and Stay, DESE and DPH have asserted that quarantine is still required for individuals outside of school settings (i.e. non-school related activities and sports) through at least Day 7 after contact with the positive case. Please refer to [DESE DESE/DPH Protocols for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios - SY 2021-22](#) for more details on Test and Stay.

We remind parents/guardians/caregivers that it is imperative that all Bedford Public School students be evaluated for symptoms of COVID-19 each day before sending them off to school. Please refer to the [COVID-19 Daily Screening Checklist](#).

Please stay tuned for information on COVID-19 safety checks (pooled testing). We aim to start the testing program in collaboration with DESE and CIC as soon as possible. We were recently connected to a program coordinator from CIC, and from there will schedule a start date once supplies are received and on-site supports are scheduled.

We are committed to continuous communication with and support of our families. If there is additional transmission as a result of this case or a separate case, the Bedford Health Department Staff and School Nurses will immediately begin a case investigation to determine close contacts of any cases and conduct appropriate notifications to any impacted school community members so as to initiate proper quarantine. Thank you for your continued support.

Please sign up for Symptomatic testing, Routine COVID safety checks, and our “Test and Stay” Protocol [HERE](#)

Wishing you continued health,

Sincerely,

Philip Conrad
Superintendent