



September 11, 2020

Dear Caretakers,

We look forward to welcoming your child back to campus next week and want to take this opportunity to share how the Health Office staff will meet your child's health needs while on campus this school year. Included here is information about the Health Office and our new Medical Waiting Area (MWA) dedicated to students who present with symptoms of illness during the school day.

Before we share that information though, we ask for your assistance and cooperation as partners in our mission. Parents and families play an important role in keeping our school community safe. **Please screen your child every morning for symptoms of illness and if they show *any* signs of illness, KEEP THEM HOME.**

Health Office: C117

The Health Office will be operating in the same location and staffed by two registered nurses. Students requiring management of chronic conditions, (pre-approved) prescription medication administration, blood glucose checks, general first aid, and injury assessment will be seen there. Students accessing the Health Office are required to wear masks and remain six (6) feet apart at all times.

Every student seeking access to the Health Office will be screened for symptoms of illness, including COVID symptoms and have their temperature checked. Students who have symptoms of illness will be referred to the MWA. Staff in the Health Office and MWA will screen* for :

- Fever (100.0° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills
- Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Headache when in combination with other symptoms
- Muscle aches or body aches
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Fatigue, when in combination with other symptoms
- Congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies), when in combination with other symptoms

Medical Waiting Area (MWA): Former Boys Locker Room Area ***Locker Room, Team Room & Restroom with a dedicated exit***

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (MA DESE) requires that all schools have an area separate from the Health Office identified for students that present

with symptoms of illness, including possible COVID symptoms, during the school day. This area is staffed by a registered nurse who will screen referred students, assess them for underlying conditions, and determine a course of action. The ENSATS MWA has been designed specifically for safety and social distancing. Students admitted to the MWA will remain a minimum of six (6) feet apart and be required to wear disposable surgical masks provided by ENSATS. School nurses will also wear additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as required by assessment and treatment protocols.

The school nurse staffing the MWA will contact a student's parent/guardian when their child has been admitted to the MWA. **Parents/guardians are expected to pick up their child within one hour of notification of their child's admission to the MWA at a designated location outside the MWA (at the rear of the building near the gymnasium).** Parents/guardians are asked to be prepared with alternate dismissal plans for their child should a parent/guardian not be available.

Parents/guardians will be provided with detailed instructions to plan for their child's return to school at their child's dismissal. These instructions will include the recommendation to contact their child's healthcare provider and follow their guidance. **Students dismissed from the MWA are NOT permitted to return to campus until parents/guardians have completed necessary follow up consultation(s) with an ENSATS School Nurse. Applicable documentation supporting a child's return to school is requested. Should a student return to campus without prior ENSATS consultation completed, they will be referred back to the MWA.**

In the event that a student tests positive for COVID-19, ENSATS will collaborate with the student's family to plan for the student's absence and return to school. As part of this process, Sandra Goldstein, MSW, Director of School Counseling, will collaborate with the Danvers Public Health Nurse to ensure all necessary steps for the student's return to school and for the safety of the school community are addressed. All communications will be made with extreme care, compassion and kindness. To every extent possible, student and family confidentiality will be protected.

Please be assured that timelines for a student's return to school after dismissal from the MWA will follow guidelines from DESE, MDPH, and the Danvers Board of Health (see below). In addition, please be assured that all necessary communications will be made in a timely manner to identified close contacts as well as the school community. A close contact is defined by the CDC *"as any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated."*

We appreciate your cooperation to implement these protocols as we work together as partners to keep your child and the entire school community safe, healthy and thriving. Should you have any questions regarding these protocols, supports or interventions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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WHEN THERE IS NOT A CONFIRMED POSITIVE COVID 19 TEST

* Determined in collaboration with Local Board of Health

<u>SYMPTOMS & Alternate Diagnosis</u>	<u>SYMPTOMS & NEGATIVE COVID TEST</u>	<u>SYMPTOMS & DID NOT TEST</u>	<u>CLOSE CONTACT CC*</u> <i>to a person who tested positive for COVID 19 <u>and</u> CC tested negative</i>
Return to campus when a provider has documented an <i>alternate diagnosis</i> and based on the recommendations to return for that <i>alternate diagnosis</i> (e.g.strep, allergies, etc.)	Return to campus when -No fever for more than 24 hours without fever reducing medications -Improvement in symptoms	Return to campus when 10 days from start of symptoms -No fever for more than 24 hours without fever reducing medications -Improvement in symptoms	Quarantine 14 days after last exposure to person who tested positive

WHEN THERE IS A POSITIVE COVID TEST

*Determined in collaboration with the Local Board of Health

<u>ISOLATION</u>
-Assist the school in contact tracing efforts - Answer the call from the local board of health or MA Community Tracing Collaborative. Self-isolation for at least 10 days <u>and</u> until at least 3 days have passed with no fever and improvement in other symptoms.

* SOURCE: MA DESE/MDPH Guidance August 20, 2020; August 29, 2020
Subject to change based on MA DESE/MDPH revisions