

GCS Isolation and Quarantine Policy – June 16, 2022

Groton Community School's COVID-19 policies and protocols are informed by the MA Department of Public Health (MDPH), our local Boards of Health, and our licensing agency the MA Department of Early Education and Care (EEC). Our GCS policy does offer an extra measure of caution in some areas, due to the current trends we have seen in our center. While maintaining up-to date vaccination status is still encouraged for the wellbeing of the individual and community, the protocols below are regardless of vaccination status.

General Information

- A [rapid antigen test](#) is fine for the purposes of exiting isolation (when positive) or quarantine (after close contact).
- To count days for quarantine and isolation, Day 0 is the date of exposure for close contacts, and for positive cases is the first day of symptoms OR the day the day positive test was taken, whichever is earlier.
- Masking is required for Days 1 through 10 for all COVID-19 positive individuals and for those who have had close contact. Masking is never required in these settings while the individual is eating, drinking, sleeping, or outside, but physical distancing will be important.

Quarantine

Quarantine for asymptomatic exposed individuals is no longer required (unless the positive individual is in the same household). Individuals who are identified as close contacts may continue to attend programming as long as they remain asymptomatic with proof of negative testing on Days 1 to 5 (if school days) after close contact. If Day 5 falls on a weekend, negative testing is required the next school day. Masking is required through Day 10.

When close contact occurs in the same household, if positive individual can completely isolate, then see above. If positive individual **cannot** completely isolate, the close contact in the household can return on Day 6, with proof of negative testing on Days 6-10 (if school days). If Day 10 falls on a weekend, negative testing is required the next school day.

Isolation

Individuals who test positive must isolate at home for at least 5 days. If they are asymptomatic or symptoms are resolving and they have been fever-free (without fever reducing medication) for 24 hours, they may return to programming on or after Day 6 with proof of a negative rapid antigen home test taken Day 5 or later. All individuals may return on Day 11 regardless of testing. Masking is required through Day 10.

Symptomatic Individuals

Symptomatic individuals can remain in their school or program if they are tested immediately onsite, and that test is negative. Best practice would also include wearing a mask, if possible, until symptoms are fully resolved. If the symptomatic individual cannot be tested immediately, they should be sent home and allowed to return to their program or school with one of the following:

- Proof of a negative test and if fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.
- A letter from a medical professional with an alternative diagnosis.