



Marshfield Public Schools

76 South River Street – Marshfield, MA 02050 ■ (781)834-5000 ■ FAX (781)834-5070

Jeffrey W. Granatino
Superintendent

Ellen M. Martin, Ed. D.
Asst. Superintendent

Thomas J. Miller
Asst. Supt. Business & Finance

Amy C. Scolaro
Director of Special Education / Pupil Personnel

Dear Members of the MPSD School Community,

The following update to the quarantine guidance for close contacts within the school day setting was issued on April 20th and April 26th by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and approved by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services after consultation with the Governor's Medical Advisory Board on COVID-19 and other medical advisors. Please note that decisions about who needs to quarantine and for how long may be determined in collaboration with the local board of health and/or contact tracers. In addition, DESE released a new FAQ installment on notification requirements on April 26 and May 5. A summary of the key changes is below:

- Close contacts who were exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual **in the classroom or on the bus (while both individuals were masked) need to quarantine as they were within 3 feet of distance of the COVID-19 positive individual for a total of 15 minutes during a 24-hour period.** Additionally this applies if someone was identified as a close contact outside of the classroom or bus (e.g., in sports, extra-curriculars, lunch, etc.) or if masks are not worn by both persons at the time of the exposure. All other close contacts must follow the standard protocol for when a close contact may return to school. **Notification of this within 3 foot exposure will be via a verbal phone call from the building nurse followed by a Close Contact letter emailed from the building principal.**
- Students or staff members who were **within 3-6 feet of the COVID-19 positive individual for at least fifteen minutes (while both parties were masked) in a classroom or on the bus will be notified that they were a close contact. However, be aware that the student or staff member does not have to quarantine.** Although the close contact in this category does not have to quarantine, they should get tested, actively monitor and report to school nurse symptoms, and implement the other key health and safety practices. **Notification of this 3-6 foot exposure will only be via a Close Contact/No Quarantine letter emailed from the building principal.**
- The full guidance is posted on the COVID-19 guidance page <https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/protocols/> "Protocols for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios — July 17, 2020 (Updated September 14, November 23, and December 16, 2020, and April 20, 2021) "
- The [FAQ](#) document provides information on the most recent guidance.

Please note at the secondary level, seating charts are reviewed in determining close contacts. At the elementary level, due to the structure of the day including snack, lunch, recess, and bus it will be likely that an entire class may have to quarantine as the 3 foot distance is hard to quantify.

Jeffrey W. Granatino
Superintendent

Jane Landry
District Nurse Director