



QUINCY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Quincy Public Schools Students, Staff, Parents, and Guardians,

All throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Quincy Public Schools school nurses have been instrumental in providing care and support to QPS families and staff. With the sharp increase in the number of COVID-19 cases that began during the school vacation week and is continuing with yesterday's return to school, it has become apparent that individual notification phone calls to families of close contacts will no longer be feasible. Beginning tomorrow, Quincy Public Schools will be using the School Messenger system (phone call, text, and email) to notify families that their students are in-school close contacts to positive cases and/or part of a positive pool.

The School Messenger notifications will be specific to the student and the following situations:

- If a student is identified as a close contact to a positive case, is without symptoms and already enrolled in the DESE/DPH Pooled Testing/Test & Stay program, the student can continue to attend school and be tested daily for 5 days if they remain symptom-free and continue to test negative.
- If a student is identified as a close contact to a positive case, is without symptoms, but **NOT** enrolled in DESE/DPH Pooled Testing/Test & Stay program, parents/guardians will be given the option to enroll their student immediately so they can continue to attend school and be tested daily for 5 days if they remain symptom-free and continue to test negative. (Note: If you choose not to participate in the DESE/DPH Pooled Testing/Test & Stay program, quarantine is at least 5 days from the date of exposure).
- If a student was part of a positive pool, retested with a rapid antigen test and the result was negative, they may remain in school.

If students have symptoms and/or have tested positive, the school nurse or another school administrator will call the parent/guardian to pick up the student from school. As always, parents/guardians are asked to monitor their students for symptom development, keep students home if they develop symptoms, and to notify the school of any changes. Please consult the Quincy Public Schools COVID-19 Resources page for additional information:

https://quincypublicschools.com/family_resources/family/covid-19_resources).

Sincerely,

Kevin W. Mulvey, J.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Erin J. Perkins
Assistant Superintendent

Rita F. Bailey, R.N.
Coordinator of Health Services