



*News from Commissioner Jeffrey C. Riley & the  
MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education*

## **On the Desktop - July 17, 2020**

### **Protocols for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios**

Dear Superintendents, Charter School Leaders, Assistant Superintendents, Leaders of Approved Special Education Schools, and Leaders of Collaboratives,

As a supplement to DESE's Initial Fall School Reopening Guidance, we are providing districts and schools with additional information on protocols for responding to specific COVID-19 scenarios this fall, including in school, on the bus, or in community settings. Please note that CDC protocols related to this topic may be released in the coming weeks, and this guidance may be updated accordingly. We will also be providing additional clarifying information on this guidance through our FAQ process.

The attached guidance provides more information and protocols to answer the following questions:

- What should a district do if there is a symptomatic individual — at home, on the bus, or at school?
- What should a district do if someone in the school community tests positive for COVID-19 — be it a student, teacher, staff member, or bus driver, or one of their household members or other close contacts?
- Who should get tested for COVID-19 and when?
- In what circumstances would someone need to quarantine or isolate themselves?
- What should school districts do to monitor COVID-19 spread in their communities?

In the coming week, we will be releasing several additional guidance documents. Please stay tuned.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey C. Riley  
Commissioner