



Memorandum

DATE: December 6, 2021
TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Charlie Seelig, Town Administrator
RE: COVID Protocols

Going through the records, it looks like the last time the Town distributed up-to-date COVID protocols was about a year ago and much has changed. I've "borrowed" the attached from my colleague Connor Read in Easton. It is based on protocols from the MA Department of Public Health. The only additional stipulation is the required reporting mechanism so that the department head is notified about the positive COVID case by the employee. This is done to protect the other employees in the department.

I've reviewed this with the Board of Health and plan to distribute this tomorrow.



Town Administrator

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Reminder re: Quarantine and Isolation Protocols for Vaccinated (and unvaccinated) Staff; Eligibility for Massachusetts Emergency Paid Sick Leave

Department Heads,

As COVID case numbers continue to increase, I wanted to re-send the current Mass DPH standards for isolation and quarantine following COVID-19 exposures for both vaccinated and unvaccinated personnel; and a reminder about the State's EPSL program. Nothing has changed here since at least the summer, so this is just a reminder. The full standards are online at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-isolation-and-quarantine-information>

Situation In Question	Vaccinated Personnel	Unvaccinated Personnel
Employee is Exposed to Covid-19 Positive Individual but Has Not Developed any Symptoms of Covid-19	<p>No quarantine required; However, you should still monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following an exposure.</p> <p><u>If you experience symptoms</u>, isolate yourself from others, seek testing, and contact your healthcare provider.</p>	<p>If you are exposed to someone with COVID-19 and you are unvaccinated: you must quarantine following an exposure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ If 10 days after your exposure you have no symptoms, you can end quarantine.◦ You can also end your quarantine after 7 days if you get tested and are negative for the virus. Testing must occur on or after the 5th day.
Employee Tests Positive for Covid-19	<p>You must isolate if you have tested positive for COVID-19. This means you must be alone, without direct contact with anyone else, until you can no longer spread the virus. This isolation period lasts for 10 days.</p>	<p>You must isolate if you have tested positive for COVID-19. This means you must be alone, without direct contact with anyone else, until you can no longer spread the virus. This isolation period lasts for 10 days.</p>



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	Employee must notify the employee's department head. The department head must notify the Board of Health.	Employee must notify the employee's department head. The department head must notify the Board of Health.
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In short – if your staff in question is fully vaccinated and is exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual, but they do not have symptoms of COVID-19, they are not required to quarantine and are expected to continue to report to work.

If any employee, vaccinated or not, develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should not report to work and should get a COVID-19 test and, if it is positive, they need to isolate.

If you have any questions about these standards, contact me or the Board of Health. If you run into what you believe is a unique fact pattern with an employee of yours and need guidance, do not hesitate to call me.

Massachusetts Emergency Paid Sick Leave (ESPL) for COVID-19 Related Absences

As a reminder, the Commonwealth's Emergency Paid Sick Leave law adopted this summer remains in effect (was originally going to expire this September but has been extended to April 1, 2022). **This is a state mandated program, employees must meet prescribed scenarios listed on the state application form (attached) to qualify for its use.** One eligible use is to seek a diagnosis (get a test) – regardless of vaccination status. Employees are eligible for a total of 40 hours OR \$850 of State EPSL, whichever occurs first. If you have questions about eligibility for the State EPSL or the necessary paperwork, please contact me. More details on the state program are here - <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-temporary-emergency-paid-sick-leave-program>