



# OXFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*“Sailing Toward Success”*

October 26, 2020

## Positive COVID-19 Case: Letter to All Families

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am writing to inform you that a person in our Oxford High School community has tested positive for COVID-19.

We have been preparing for this scenario and have developed a comprehensive response plan as our first responsibility is to ensure the safety and well-being of all students and staff. This response plan includes all of the following: identifying and sanitizing affected areas in the school, informing families, in particular any students who have been identified as a close contact or who shared the same space, and supporting the affected individual as he/she navigate this stressful experience.

Our student body and staff have been closely adhering to the safety protocols including mask wearing, handwashing/sanitizing, and physical distancing. We are grateful to our families for their continued efforts to keep students home at the first sign of symptoms. We are all appreciative of the efforts of our staff who also monitor their health. Please continue to monitor your child for symptoms, and remember to keep your child home if he/she shows any symptoms or is not feeling well.

Though we cannot provide specific information about the school community member who tested positive, your child was not a close contact (defined as being within 6 feet of the infected person for at least 15 minutes). However, we ask that as always, you continue to monitor your child for symptoms (fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea) if your child is not feeling well.

Parents of students who were in close contact with the community member will be notified privately. **All close contacts should be tested but must self-quarantine for 14 days after the last exposure to the person who tested positive, regardless of test result.** We are also following MA Department of Health protocols, including collaborating with our Board of Health to complete contact tracing. Additionally, in an earlier message sent to parents, we are asking parents whose child/children tested positive for COVID-19 to please make sure to contact your school nurse immediately as this information is a critical piece of the puzzle for understanding the impact of the virus on our school community.

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To further prevent transmission of the virus to other students and staff, we have sanitized the school areas frequented by the school community member who tested positive. We will continue to be vigilant in following all the recommended protocols that have been put in place to maintain hybrid (in-person) learning. For students who must stay home to quarantine, we will provide opportunities to continue instruction, structure, and an emotional connection to the classroom during this time as we recognize the challenge this presents for our students and their families.

For more information on COVID-19 and testing, visit the following:

[https://www.mass.gov/info-details/about-covid-19-testing#where-can-get-a-test?-](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/about-covid-19-testing#where-can-get-a-test?)

You can also find a map of testing sites at the following:

<https://memamaps.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=eba3f0395451430b9f631cb095febf13>

We are committed to continuous communication with and support of our families. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact David Nugent, Principal of Oxford High School at [dnugent@oxps.org](mailto:dnugent@oxps.org). If there is any additional transmission as a result of this case or a separate case, we will send out another message immediately. Thank you for your continued support.

With warmest regards,



Kristine E. Nash, Ed.D.  
Interim Superintendent of Schools



David Nugent, Principal  
Oxford High School