



# OXFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*“Sailing Toward Success”*

December 2, 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 Middle School community has tested positive for COVID-19. The school community member has **not** been in the school building in over two (2) weeks; therefore, no staff or students have been exposed during the infectious period.

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. Key elements of this response plan include the following: conducting contact tracing and identifying close contacts when an individual in the school community tests positive, communicating with any student who has been identified as a close contact or who shared the same space, and supporting the affected individual as he/she navigates 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. CDC revised guidelines define a close contact as **“someone who was within six feet of an infected person for a cumulative 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.”** 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 link:

[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 link:

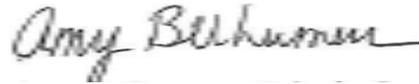
<https://memamaps.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=eba3f0395451430b9f631cb095febf13>

We are committed to continuous communication with and support of our families. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact Oxford Middle School Principal Amy Belhumeur at [abelhumeur@oxps.org](mailto:abelhumeur@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



Amy Belhumeur, Principal  
Oxford Middle School