



## Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School

10 New Bond Street Worcester, MA 01606

Phone: (508) 854-8400 Fax: (508) 854-8484

[www.akfcs.org](http://www.akfcs.org)

To our Abby Kelley Families and Staff:

For the 2022-2023 school year there have been changes to the **Abby Kelley Foster Charter School District Protocols & Expectations regarding COVID**. These updated protocols are for the health and safety of our students, staff and families; they have been created with guidance and best practice recommendations from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Department of Public Health (DPH). These guidelines replace AKFCS Health Protocols previously released in February 2022 and are effective immediately.

This updated guidance, which is in alignment with DESE and CDC, reduces the number of days a student/staff must be out of school if they test positive for COVID. We ask that all members of our community take personal responsibility for keeping everyone safe. If you are sick and exhibiting symptoms, please stay home regardless of the duration the guidance calls for. Some people will feel better after a few days and can return on day 6; others may need additional time to recover. These guidelines are just that—guidance—and we will need the cooperation of all members of our community to keep AKFCS healthy.

### Overarching Changes to Guidance

Staff and students who test positive for COVID **MUST** remain home for a full 5 days returning to school on day 6 only if he/she is fever free for at least 24 hours (without over the counter medicine) and shows improvement in all other symptoms. After testing positive, a negative test result is not required to return to school on day 6. **Positive individuals with decreasing or no symptoms MUST then mask for 5 additional days, both inside and outside while in school.**

**COVID-19 symptoms may include (but are not limited to):**

<b>Fever (100.0° F or higher), chills, shaking chills</b>	<b>Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath</b>
<b>New loss of taste or smell</b>	<b>Muscle aches or body aches</b>
Cough (not due to other known cause)	Sore throat (when in combination with other symptoms)
Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea (when in combination with other symptoms)	Headache (when in combination with other symptoms)
Fatigue (when in combination with other symptoms)	Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, when in combination with other symptoms)

**What if my student has these symptoms? Or AKFCS staff person?**

*Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or homelessness and all students have equal access to the general education program and the full range of any occupational/vocational education programs offered by the district.*



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- Students/Staff with **ANY** of these symptoms **MUST** remain at home and contact your Primary Care Physician for further instruction, which might include getting a COVID test. Please notify your student's nurse and teacher by email or call the front desk at your student's school when your student will be absent. AKFCS staff must notify their supervisor.
- If your student needs to stay home due to illness or is sent home from school with the above symptoms, the school nurse will advise you based on the symptom checklist above if you would need to contact your Primary Care Physician for COVID testing and /or other diagnosis prior to returning to school.

### **If a student/staff becomes ill while at school the following steps will be taken**

- If a student/staff starts to exhibit sudden onset of above symptoms while at school, Parent/Guardian will be called for **immediate pickup**. If we are unable to reach the Parent/Guardian, the Emergency Contact will be called.
- A student's negative result or other diagnosis must be received and reviewed by the school nurse prior to readmittance to the school. If your student has a **negative test** for COVID, but is experiencing **ANY** of the above symptoms, they must remain at home until symptoms have improved and they are **fever-free for at least 24 hours, without the use of over the counter (OTC) fever reducing medication** such as Advil, Motrin or Tylenol.

### **We are close contacts, what do we do now? Someone in my household is COVID positive, now what?**

- Quarantine is no longer required nor recommended for children or staff in these settings, regardless of vaccination status or where the exposure occurred. All exposed individuals may attend programming, as long as they remain asymptomatic. Those residing in the home with a COVID positive individual, and can mask, should do so until day 10 after exposure. It is recommended (but not required) that they test on Day 6 of exposure.

These policies are subject to change due to ongoing recommendations and guidance from DESE, DPH and CDC. Thank you for your cooperation, patience and dedication to supporting our efforts to maintain safety and wellness in our schools. We continue to support you and are available to answer any questions, concerns and/or provide clarification at any time.

[Melissa Joubert](#), Elementary School Nurse, 508-854-8400 ext.3604

[Ariel Stricker](#), Middle School Nurse, 508-854-8400 ext. 2504

[Sara Ramirez](#), High School Nurse, 508-854-8400 ext. 4604

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