



Shore Owen School

Health and Safety Protocols Related to COVID-19

Effective **August 30, 2021**

Masks & Social Distancing	2
Staff	2
Students	2
Guests and Visitors	2
B. Screening Before Entering Shore Programs	2
C. Handwashing and Hand Sanitizing	3
D. School Activities, Interactions, and Routines	3
E. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	3
F. Specialized Health Procedures	4
G. Community Outings	4
H. Cleaning and Disinfecting	4
I. COVID-19 Symptoms	5
J. Covid-19 Scenarios	5
1. Staff are Symptomatic:	5
2. Students are Symptomatic	6
3. Positive or Presumed Positive for COVID-19:	6
4. Possible Exposure/Close Contact with Someone Who has COVID-19	7
Definitions and Changes to Close Contact/	7
Possible Exposure	7
LINKS TO RESOURCES	8
Get a Vaccine	8
Symptom Checker	8
Mass. Dept of Public Health Info on Coronavirus	8
CDC Information on Coronavirus	8

A. Masks & Social Distancing

- Staff
 - All Staff, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear masks while indoors at the school building.
 - Staff who are fully vaccinated may remove masks if they choose,
 - when working with students outdoors;
 - when eating/drinking;
 - when in offices, meeting/break rooms, vacant classrooms, or other non-student space.
- Students
 - All students, including those who are fully vaccinated, are required to wear masks while inside the school (to the extent that they can tolerate these). Exceptions are: while eating and/or during designated indoor mask breaks where students will observe social distancing requirements.
 - All students (vaccinated and unvaccinated) may remove masks outdoors if they choose. Students do not need to socially distance when outdoors.
- Guests and Visitors
 - Guests and visitors, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear masks while in the school building.

B. Screening Before Entering Shore Programs

Staff, students, and guests should self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms and stay home & not come to Shore if any symptoms are present.

- Staff will monitor for symptoms and will acknowledge they are symptom-free by “swiping” or logging into the daily attendance system.
- Guests and visitors will sign in and provide a contact phone number, acknowledging they are free from symptoms, and/or not awaiting covid test results.
- Parents, families, and other caregivers are responsible for assessing children for possible COVID-19-related symptoms before sending them to school. In addition, students will be observed for any COVID-19 symptoms by Shore staff upon arrival to school. If any symptoms are suspected, the student will remain outdoors, supervised by a staff person, and a nurse and administrator will be called. They will assess the student and make a determination as to whether COVID-19-related symptoms are present and based on this, formulate a plan of action.

C. Handwashing and Hand Sanitizing

All staff, students, and guests to Shore classrooms and programs are asked to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer often. Specifically, hands should be washed or sanitizer used when:

- Entering and leaving school;
- Before putting on or taking off masks;
- Before eating or assisting others with dining;
- After using bathrooms or assisting others in personal care tasks;
- After coughing, sneezing, touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

D. School Activities, Interactions, and Routines

Social distancing guidelines have been lifted while students are indoors in the school building. No social distancing requirements are necessary outdoors.

Students can share materials and equipment. Items such as books, games, craft and art supplies, sensory and other toys, physical education equipment, etc may be shared and do not necessarily need to be cleaned or sanitized between each student's or group's use. (Typical health and safety protocols will be reinstated for cleaning shared items/materials.)

Both staff and students can bring necessary belongings from home and can store these as they typically would. (Lunch boxes, coats, backpacks, and other personal items no longer have to be stored in separate bins or "distanced".)

Cooking or food preparation groups/individual activities can resume with (typical) good health and hygiene practices in place, i.e. everyone involved in food preparation will wash their hands before these activities. Surfaces and utensils used for food preparation will be cleaned before and after the activity.

E. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Staff must wear masks while working with students indoors, and in school hallways and rooms where students are or may be present.

Gloves should be worn when assisting others with personal care but no other PPE is required. Any staff who want to use protective eyewear, face shields, or isolation gowns may do so. (Shore will provide all such equipment.)

The only time specialized PPE is *required* is when interacting with and/or supervising a person who has COVID-19 symptoms. While waiting with a symptomatic child to be dismissed from

Shore, staff should wear an N-95 mask, eye protection, isolation gown and gloves. N-95 masks that are worn when treating COVID-19 positive individuals should not be reused.

F. Specialized Health Procedures

Whenever possible, nebulizer treatments, suctioning and any other aerosolizing treatments should be done outside of the students' classroom, away from others. Nurses performing these procedures are required to wear only masks and gloves if the student is fully vaccinated, asymptomatic, and COVID-19 status is negative or unknown/unsuspected. Additional PPE will be made available, however, if nurses prefer this protection.

When it is not possible to move the student from his/her classroom, aerosolizing treatments should be done (6) feet or more from other persons, preferably behind a privacy screen or barrier. Typical health and safety procedures should be used following these treatments in terms of cleaning the area and discarding supplies.

G. Community Outings

All drivers and passengers (staff and students) must wear masks in vehicles, even if they are fully vaccinated. Anyone who cannot wear a mask must be socially distanced from others.

Hand sanitizers must be available and should be used by all passengers when they enter and leave vehicles.

When Shore hires vehicles for field trips and community outings, staff and students will follow the transportation company's protocols with regard to seating, ventilation, etc.

Shore vans must be cleaned at the end of each day that they are used. If necessary, they should be cleaned between trips when used by different groups.

H. Cleaning and Disinfecting

All programs will be cleaned and disinfected at least once per day by cleaning staff who are trained in the use of cleaning supplies and procedures.

Typical good health and hygiene practices should be implemented by school staff and students in their classrooms, such as:

- Clean table and desk surfaces daily before and after snack/lunch, and at the end of the day.

- Clean high touch surfaces such as door knobs, light switches, shared appliances and equipment at the end of the day.

Rooms used by individuals who were symptomatic or confirmed positive for COVID-19 will be cleaned and disinfected by trained cleaning staff equipped with all recommended PPE.

I. COVID-19 Symptoms

Below is the full list of symptoms for which caregivers should monitor their children, and staff should monitor themselves.

Unvaccinated individuals and any close contacts presenting with any of these symptoms should follow the testing and quarantine response protocols below.

Vaccinated individuals who are not close contacts should follow the testing and quarantine protocols if they are experiencing the symptoms in bold. These individuals may also seek medical guidance to assess the need for PCR testing if they have other symptoms on this list.

- **Fever (100.0 degrees Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills**
- **Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath**
- **New loss of taste or smell**
- **Muscle aches or body aches**
- Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
- 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 such as allergies) *when in combination with other symptoms*

J. Covid-19 Scenarios

1. Staff are Symptomatic:

Staff (and visitors) who are symptomatic should not report to school. The following applies to both **vaccinated and non-vaccinated individuals** who are experiencing symptoms. If symptoms develop while at school:

- Continue to wear a mask at all times.
- Inform supervisor that coverage is needed, leave the building, and self-isolate at home.
- Get a PCR covid test and/or speak to health care practitioners for other recommendations. Note: So long as the individual is not a close contact, if a medical

professional makes an alternative diagnosis for the COVID-19-like symptoms, the individual may use this recommendation (e.g., for influenza or strep pharyngitis) in lieu of a PCR test.

If employee's test results are negative

Return to school when 24 hrs with no fever (without the use of fever-reducing medications) and symptoms have improved.

If employee does not get a test

Remain home in isolation for 10 days from symptom onset. Return after 10 days if no fever (without the use of fever-reducing medications) and symptoms have improved.

** If test results are positive, see #3 below: Positive or Presumed Positive for Covid

2. Students are Symptomatic

Students who are symptomatic should stay home from school. The following applies to both **vaccinated and non-vaccinated** students. If symptoms develop while at school:

- Continue to wear or put on a mask.
- Isolate from others. The student will be taken to a separate room (medical waiting room), or if no room is available, will be separated from others by at least (6) feet.
- Wait with a designated staff member for arrangements to be made for pick-up from school. Designated staff should wear a mask (preferably N-95 mask), isolation gown, protective eyewear, and gloves.
- Get a covid test and/or speak to health care practitioners for other recommendations. Note: So long as the individual is not a close contact, if a medical professional makes an alternative diagnosis for the COVID-19-like symptoms, the individual may use this recommendation (e.g., for influenza or strep pharyngitis) in lieu of a PCR test.

If student's test results are negative

Return to school when 24 hrs with no fever (without the use of fever-reducing medications) and symptoms have improved.

If student does not get a test

Remain home in isolation for 10 days from symptom onset. Return after 10 days if no fever (without the use of fever-reducing medications) and symptoms have improved.

** If test results are positive, see #3 below: Positive or Presumed Positive for COVID-19

3. Positive or Presumed Positive for COVID-19:

Any persons (fully vaccinated or not vaccinated) who test positive or are presumed positive for COVID-19 must stay out of school and isolate at home for at least (10) days from symptom onset

or date of positive test, and until symptom-free for 24 hours. This is the case even if the staff/student has no symptoms.

Shore administrators are required to report positive cases to parents/guardians; the local Board of Health, and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. In addition, Shore will provide information, if requested, to the Massachusetts Contact Tracing Collaborative and encourages all staff and students to do the same if contacted.

4. Possible Exposure/Close Contact with Someone Who has COVID-19

All persons who are fully vaccinated OR have had COVID-19 in the last 90 days, and have had close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 (at Shore or outside of Shore) do not have to quarantine.

- You may still work and go to school at Shore if you have no symptoms.
- You are not required to be tested.
- You should monitor closely for symptoms for (14) days from date of contact.
- If you have symptoms of COVID-19, see #1 and #2 above (Staff/Student symptomatic)

All persons who are not fully vaccinated OR have not had COVID-19 in the last 90 days, and have had close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 (at Shore or outside of Shore):

- Must quarantine and not attend school/work for 10 days after contact (if no COVID-19 test) or for 7 days after contact (if COVID-19 test after day 5 is negative).
- This quarantine period is required even if persons are not symptomatic.
- Staff and students should continue monitoring for symptoms for (14) after exposure and wearing masks, even if they have returned to Shore after 7 or 10 days.

Definitions and Changes to Close Contact/ Possible Exposure

You are a close contact of a person who has tested positive for covid if you are:

- ❖ within 6 feet, indoors, if one or both of you are not wearing masks,
- ❖ within 3 feet, indoors, if both of you are wearing masks,
- ❖ AND you have been in close contact for at least 15 minutes or more over the course of the day.

You are **not** considered to be exposed as a close contact for any time you are outdoors, at any distance with someone who later tests positive for covid.

If you meet the criteria for a close contact you will be informed, even if you do not need to quarantine or be tested (for those fully vaccinated).

Please call the School with any questions or concerns.

617-887-2930

Shore is required to follow the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) guidance for schools. We will revise and update our guidance throughout the school year as the DESE and Department of Public Health guidelines necessitate.

LINKS TO RESOURCES

[Get a Vaccine](#)

[Symptom Checker](#)

[Mass. Dept of Public Health Info on Coronavirus](#)

[CDC Information on Coronavirus](#)