



# Shutesbury Elementary School

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

23 West Pelham Road, Shutesbury, MA 01072

Phone: (413) 259-1212 Fax: (413) 259-1531

Jacqueline Mendonsa, Principal

email: [mendonsaj@shutesburyschool.org](mailto:mendonsaj@shutesburyschool.org)

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September 9, 2021

Dear SES Staff and Caregivers,

We are writing to inform you of a positive case of COVID-19 within our school community. We are not able to provide any personal information identifying a school community member who has tested positive. **We are able to share that this case is completely unrelated to last week's case and that due to the nature of school notification and conditions there are no close contacts.**

We have engaged in our process of identifying staff and/or students that may be considered a close contact per the Massachusetts Department of Public Health guidelines with the Board of Health. A close contact is defined as: Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the positive case is isolated. Per the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, a **classroom** close contact while both individuals were masked, so long as the individuals were spaced at least 3 feet apart, is exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols (please reference DESE information [HERE](#)). If you have been contacted by a Board of Health staff member or Nurse Katie, please follow the guidance and recommendations given. If you have been identified as a close contact, you are required to quarantine at home per guidance given from public health. Close contacts will be notified privately. **If you have not been contacted, you are not considered to be a close contact and no further action is required.**

We have planned for this scenario and have a comprehensive plan in place to sanitize the school per current guidelines, and to follow all health and safety protocols and guidance as outlined by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the CDC and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Our staff and students have been closely following mitigating measures that include, mask/cloth face covering wearing, hand-washing / sanitizing, physical distancing, separate entrances and exits, and separate classroom bathrooms. We are grateful for families, staff and caregivers for their continued efforts to stay home at the first signs of COVID- like symptoms. These measures, taken in combination, greatly reduce the risk of additional transmission. As symptoms of COVID-19 are similar to other illnesses, please follow-up with your primary care provider for referral to PCR testing. If any COVID-19 symptoms

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are present, stay home, contact your care provider and contact Nurse Katie at [Harringtonk@shutesburyschool.org](mailto:Harringtonk@shutesburyschool.org) or by calling the school at 1-413-259-1212.

Please refer to the checklist located in our Health and Safety Handbook on our school website for more information regarding our health and safety protocols. Also, continue to examine your child(ren) each day for the symptoms below:

COVID-19 symptoms list:

- Fever (100.0° 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

For more information regarding testing and testing sites , please visit :

<https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-testing>

We thank you for your continued support. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please email [harringtonk@shutesburyschool.org](mailto:harringtonk@shutesburyschool.org) or call 413-251-1212

Jennifer Culkeen, Superintendent

Jackie Mendonsa, Principal

Katie Harrington, School Nurse

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