MMA Webinar
DESE Reopening Update

September 15, 2020

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

2020-21 School Reopening

Bromfield School – Hybrid Learning

Harvard Public Schools

To facilitate district and school leaders in planning for school reopening, *DESE has released 25 guidance documents (over 200 pages)* on the following topics:

1. Initial fall school reopening guidance
2. Comprehensive summer school guidance
3. Remote learning technology essentials grant and how to purchase PPE
4. Comprehensive special education guidance for 2020-21 school year
5. Two-step process and online form/template for fall reopening plans
6. Protocols for responding to COVID-19 scenarios in school, on the bus, and in the community (revised in August)
7. Fall reopening facilities and operations guidance
8. Fall reopening transportation guidance
9. Remote learning guidance for fall 2020
10. Guidance on courses requiring additional safety considerations
11. Additional staff training days this fall and MOU with DESE and state teachers unions
12. Career/vocational technical education reopening guidelines
13. Process for districts/schools to request a modification of structured learning time requirements
14. Creating positive learning environments - recommendations and resources to support the social emotional wellbeing of students, staff, and families
15. Supplementary information for science courses and laboratory work for fall 2020
16. Adult and Community Learning Serivces fall reopening guidance
17. Remote learning partner information
18. Feedback on preliminary fall reopening plans
19. Guidance for districts and schools on intrepreting DPH COVID-19 metrics
20. Guidance memo to private K-12 schools
21. Joint guidance with MIAA on modified sports seasons for SY 20-21
22. Joint memo with DPH clarifying key health and safety requirements for schools
23. Access to mobile testing
24. Guidance on teachers and critical support staff in remote learning districts, vulnerable students, children of teachers, and regional calculations
25. Submission process for final reopening plans

With new color-coded metric from COVID Command, DESE is issuing additional guidance for selecting a learning model

New color-coded metric*		DESE expectation for learning model
RED	Average daily cases per 100,000 is **greater than 8**	**Remote**
YELLOW	Average daily cases per 100,000 is **between 4 - 8**	**Hybrid** **OR Remote** (if extenuating circumstances)
GREEN	Average daily cases per 100,000 is **less than 4**	**Full-time in-person** **OR Hybrid** (if extenuating circumstances)
UNSHADED	Fewer than 5 total cases over the past 14 days. Generally, this is for communities with small populations and very few cases.	

**Measured as a 14-day rolling average and will be reported weekly as part of the online DPH dashboard*

Next steps: Shift from developing guidance to providing implementation support to school and district leaders

OPERATIONAL/TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT SCHOOL REOPENING

MONITOR IMPLEMENTATION OF REMOTE LEARNING MODEL TO ENSURE QUALITY

COLLECTION OF DATA TO TRACK EFFECTIVENESS OF DESE SUPPORT

Protocols for Mobile Rapid Response Units

September 15, 2020

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

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01 Rationale

Rationale

- Schools and districts across the state are working to implement the health and safety guidelines for in-person or hybrid schooling models.
- To support these efforts, DESE is shifting from releasing guidance to providing direct support and producing specific resources and tools.
- The use of these guidelines, tools and resources will increase districts' capacity and resiliency to keep students, faculty and staff safe.

02

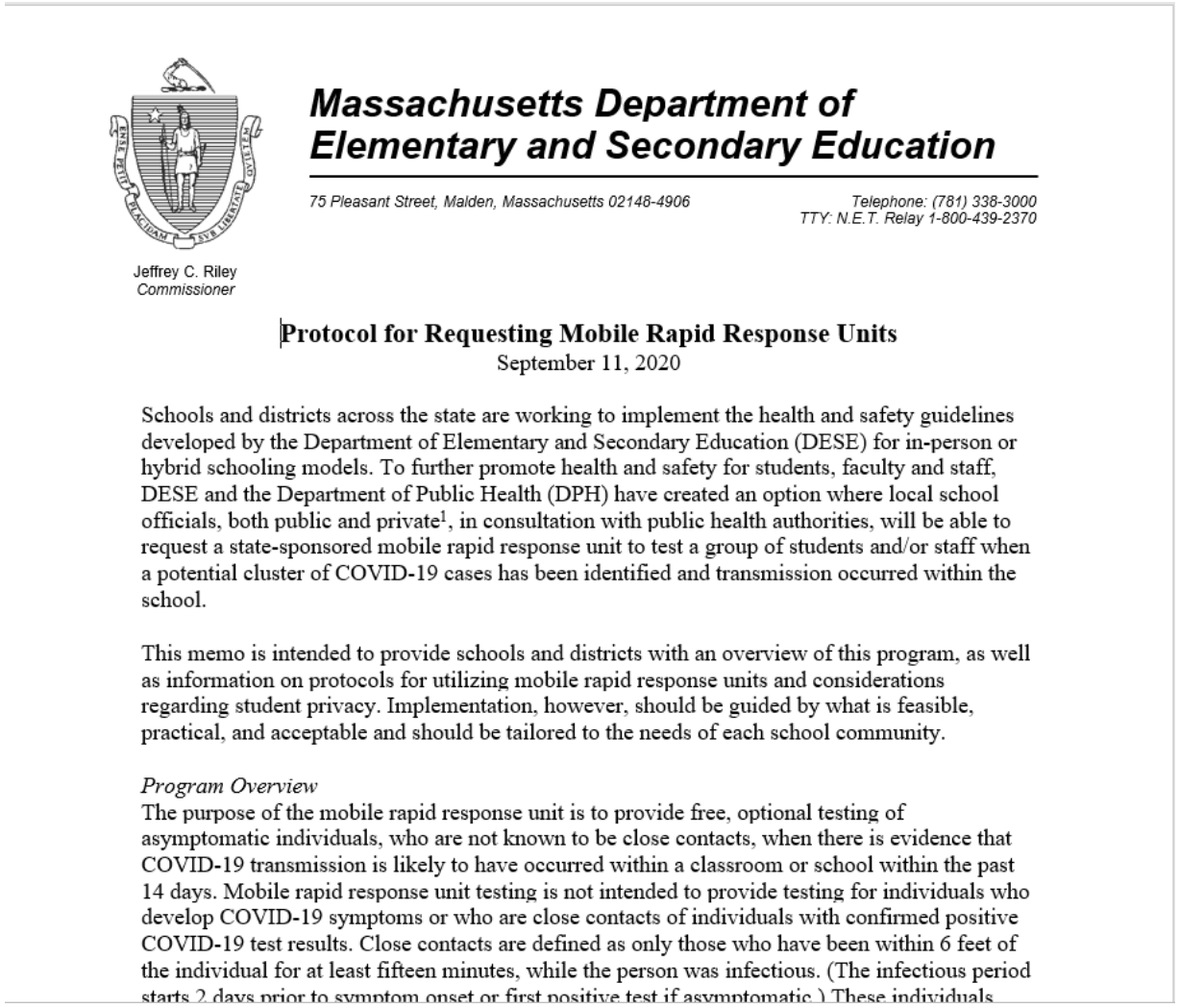
Protocol for Requesting Mobile Rapid Response Unit

Mobile Rapid Response Unit preview

- The purpose of the mobile rapid response unit is to test of asymptomatic individuals, who are not known to be close contacts, when there is evidence that COVID-19 transmission may have occurred within a classroom or school within the past 14 days.

- Mobile rapid response unit testing is not intended to provide testing for individuals who develop COVID-19 symptoms or who are close contacts of individuals with confirmed positive COVID-19 test.

Protocol for Requesting Mobile Rapid Response Unit



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Protocol for Requesting Mobile Rapid Response Units
September 11, 2020

Schools and districts across the state are working to implement the health and safety guidelines developed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) for in-person or hybrid schooling models. To further promote health and safety for students, faculty and staff, DESE and the Department of Public Health (DPH) have created an option where local school officials, both public and private[1], in consultation with public health authorities, will be able to request a state-sponsored mobile rapid response unit to test a group of students and/or staff when a potential cluster of COVID-19 cases has been identified and transmission occurred within the school.

This memo is intended to provide schools and districts with an overview of this program, as well as information on protocols for utilizing mobile rapid response units and considerations regarding student privacy. Implementation, however, should be guided by what is feasible, practical, and acceptable and should be tailored to the needs of each school community.

Program Overview
The purpose of the mobile rapid response unit is to provide free, optional testing of asymptomatic individuals, who are not known to be close contacts, when there is evidence that COVID-19 transmission is likely to have occurred within a classroom or school within the past 14 days. Mobile rapid response unit testing is not intended to provide testing for individuals who develop COVID-19 symptoms or who are close contacts of individuals with confirmed positive COVID-19 test results. Close contacts are defined as only those who have been within 6 feet of the individual for at least fifteen minutes, while the person was infectious. (The infectious period starts 2 days prior to symptom onset or first positive test if asymptomatic.) These individuals

Mobile Rapid Response Unit key points

- Establishing and maintaining clear channels of communication between the school district and the Local Board of Health (LBOH) is key to the success of this testing strategy.
- Schools must have robust and reliable ways to communicate with all families, students, teachers, and staff in order to send and receive key messages related to COVID-19 testing.

04

Questions and Answers

THANK YOU

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION