

Massachusetts Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics

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School Reopening Case Studies

Use these cases and questions to test your understanding of COVID testing and return to school rules for children and youth. Discuss the answers and your thoughts with your colleagues or on your own. The accompanying answer key may also help you.

Case Study One

Mr. Charley is a 1:1 aide in Casey's classroom and spent the whole school day of September 1 helping Casey learn to use a Chromebook to get ready for remote learning. On the evening of September 1, Mr. Charley tests COVID positive.

- a) How long does Casey need to quarantine for?
- b) What if Mr. Charley and Casey were in masks all day—does that change the answer?
- c) Casey's sister Althea sat next to Casey at lunch that day but is not in Casey's classroom and had no other contact with Mr. Charley. How long is she in quarantine for?
- d) How long does Casey's mother, Bertha, have to quarantine for?
- e) What if Mr. Charley was actually the janitor who had deep cleaned the classroom throughout the day prior to Casey being in the room, but who was never in the room at the same time as Casey. Does Casey have to quarantine after Mr. Charley tests positive?
- f) On Sept 6, Casey says he really wants to go to his cousin's birthday party that weekend. Can Casey go to the party?
- g) What if he gets a negative rapid PCR/molecular test?
- h) On Sept 9, Casey gets a fever and then tests positive for COVID on a PCR test. When can he go back to school, assuming he has an uncomplicated course and his fever is gone in two days?
- i) Starting on Sept 9, Casey "isolates" in his room – only his sister Althea sees him. She brings him food and reads him a 30-minute story each night, but he has his own bathroom and they keep his windows open. He does not leave his room and does nothing but play Fortnite for his whole isolation period. How long is his sister Althea in quarantine for – when can she go back to school?

j) Assuming she never develops symptoms, when does his mother Bertha's quarantine end? When can she go back to work?

k) On Day 7 after Casey's positive test, desperate to go back to work and still symptom-free, she gets a COVID test. Its positive?!? How long until she can go back to work?

Case Study Two

Scarlet is starting college. She has no symptoms but has a positive test upon arrival to campus on September 20. No symptoms ensue.

a) How long is her period of isolation?

b) Tennessee Jed, Scarlet's Boyfriend, really wants to see her. Scarlet has negative tests on Day 5, and 7. Tennessee Jed has a negative test upon arrival. When can he see her?

Case Study Three

Magnolia developed a cough and fever on Monday night. She got a rapid PCR COVID test at her pediatrician's office on Tuesday morning (before school) and it was positive.

a) Does the school/DPH have to quarantine her class?

b) What if her positive test was on Sunday AM?

c) Stella is not in Magnolia's class. However, she was in the speech therapy room waiting for her therapy to start for 5 minutes while Magnolia worked on her lisp on Friday. Does Stella have to quarantine? What if she took off her mask for those 5 minutes because she was in speech therapy?

Case Study Four

Jerry, Bob, Phil, and Mickey are high school seniors. They are in a pod, with all members 10 feet apart at all times. Bob's Dad is found to be positive.

a) Do Jerry, Bob and Phil and Mickey have to quarantine?

b) What if they are in a band and had practice in Bob's basement for two hours the day before?

Please use the School Reopening Case Studies Answer Key to guide your discussion of the important issues with each question. The answers will be based on DESE, DPH, and CDC guidance, and clinical judgment.

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