

**DEERFIELD**

**ACADEMY**

**COVID-19**

**POSITIVE CASE**

**PROTOCOL**

*Current as  
of September 1, 2020*



Deerfield Academy has designed all programming for this school year to dramatically reduce the risk of any potential transmission of COVID-19 on campus. Our robust testing and screening program minimizes the chance of asymptomatic or symptomatic carriers being on campus, our engineering controls increase ventilation and filtration in all shared spaces, and our enhanced culture of community health practices (“Healthy Deerfield”) will ensure that we are minimizing the number of close contacts\* that students, faculty, and staff have throughout the course of the day.

**All community members can do their part to decrease the risk of COVID-19 transmission by:**

- *Filling out the daily symptom screening form promptly and truthfully.*
- *Contacting the Chen Center (health center) if they feel any potential symptoms of COVID-19 at any time.*
- *Keeping physical distance from others whenever possible.*
- *Washing and sanitizing their hands frequently and disinfecting high-contact surfaces in shared spaces.*
- *Wearing a face covering at all times as required by Deerfield Academy’s mask policy.*
- *Being friendly with others, but masking and distancing as though you and/or those around you are potentially positive with COVID-19. In short, minimize the possibility of being considered a close contact with anyone, especially at the start of the year.*

## **When we do have a positive case on campus remember to:**

- **Remain calm.** *Recognize that there is no immediate emergency, and listen carefully to instructions shared by text alert, email notification, or in-person directions.*
- **Remain kind.** *Avoid spreading rumors; empathize with anyone who may have tested positive or has been asked to quarantine, and connect and care for those who may be feeling concerned.*
- **Trust the contact tracing process.** *Someone from the Chen Center team will be in touch with you soon if they consider you to be a close contact. Until then, remain calm and remain kind.*
- **Support your peers** (and Deerfield parents) *by only sharing confirmed information. When we have a positive case on campus, there will be many emotions and many questions. One of the best ways we can support our community health is by refraining from creating a communications crisis with inaccurate information. Deerfield Academy is committed to communicating promptly and transparently with all community members and families, as well as with the greater community, but please allow the school time to ensure that accurate information is being shared.*

*\*The Massachusetts Department of Public Health defines a close contact as “someone with whom you have been within 6 feet of for at least 10-15 minutes while symptomatic or within 48 hours before symptom onset. A close contact can also be someone who had direct contact with the droplets of a COVID-19 case (e.g., being coughed on) while not wearing a mask or face covering.” Per the CDC, walking by a person or briefly being in a room with a COVID-19 case does not constitute a close contact.*



## / POSITIVE CASE PROTOCOL PROCESS /

**While Deerfield Academy's response to a positive case on campus will be dependent on the particular circumstances of the case, all responses will likely go through the following four phases:**

### **1. Identification and Isolation**

- Once there is a confirmed case of a student on campus with COVID-19, that student will be immediately moved to supportive isolation in the Dewey Health Center. If the student is already being evaluated in Dewey, they will be moved to one of the supportive isolation rooms. If they are out in the community on campus, they will be escorted to Dewey by a member of the Chen Center team, Security, or Student Life Office. If an individual receives a positive test result, they should remain calm, stay physically distant from others, keep their mask on, and immediately call the Chen Center at 1-413-774-1600 to discuss next steps.
- In the case of a day student or employee who is already off campus, the individual confirmed case will likely be asked to stay in supportive isolation at home.
- A parent or guardian of a student with a confirmed case will be contacted by a member of the Chen Center team as soon as possible to discuss next steps for supportive isolation. For the comfort of the student and the health of the community, the health center and Student Life Office will work with the student's family to have the student go to their predetermined off-campus accommodation whenever possible.

## 2. Pausing for Contact Tracing

- In the event of a confirmed case on campus, all community members should expect to pause for contact tracing.
- A campus-wide text and email alert will be sent with specific instructions, but in most cases:
  - Boarding students will return to their rooms for a temporary campus-wide quarantine.
  - Day students will return to their homes (if they are able to drive or walk home) or go to their assigned on-campus location where they can remain physically distant from others.
  - All activities will be conducted remotely as students “learn in place,” and meals will be delivered to dorms as they were during the initial quarantine period at the start of the year.
  - Faculty residents will be asked to check in with students on their hall using the same physically-distant quarantine protocol that was used at the start of the year.
- Employees will report to their assigned locations (a list will be shared with staff) while remaining physically distanced and masked to await further instructions from their supervisors.
- As students and employees pause for contact tracing, it will be essential that everyone remain calm and practice exemplary physical distancing, hand hygiene, and use of masks as they return to their rooms, homes, or other assigned locations.
- Students in the squad of the individual with the confirmed positive case should expect to stay in their rooms or be moved temporarily from their corridor while high contact surfaces are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.
- All Deerfield Academy families will be contacted to update them about a confirmed case on campus, to let them know that contact tracing is in progress, and that they will be contacted as soon as possible with new information. As information becomes available, families of students who are identified as close contacts will be promptly contacted by a member of the health center or contact tracing team.
- Pausing for contact tracing will likely take several hours and all members of the community will be updated when the contact tracing is complete and close contacts have been moved to quarantine.

### 3. Quarantine and Quiet Period

- At the completion of contact tracing, all close contacts of the confirmed case will be moved to quarantine locations.
  - In the event of a member of a squad having a confirmed positive case, it is likely that the whole squad will be initially asked to quarantine in place in their rooms. Given the fact that all Deerfield Academy students are in single rooms this year, we have the ability to safely quarantine a whole corridor. Given the architecture of our dorms, and the enhancements to ventilation and filtration, one corridor in a dorm could safely quarantine without risk to the other corridors in the dorm.
  - Day students and employees who are identified as close contacts will be expected to quarantine at home.
  - Any other students who are close contacts will initially be placed in supportive and supervised quarantine in Dewey, the annex to the Deerfield Inn, or another on-campus location. All close contacts will undergo testing as soon as possible.
  - A parent or guardian of a student who is identified as a close contact will be contacted by a member of the health center team as soon as possible to discuss next steps for supportive quarantine. For the comfort of the student and the health of the community, the health center and Student Life Office will work with the student's family to have the student go to their predetermined off-campus accommodation whenever possible.
- During this period, the school will likely operate as it did during the initial "quiet period" while test results come back, additional contact tracing is completed as necessary, and Deerfield Academy leaders work closely with local public health officials and outside experts to consider any potential modifications to campus operations.
- Before this period concludes, high contact surfaces on campus will be disinfected with a particular focus on spaces where the individual with a confirmed positive case frequented in the 48 hours before being confirmed as positive.
- In consultation with the Town of Deerfield and public health experts, we will resume in-person learning as soon as we are confident that public health indicators support that decision. This process could take several hours or several days depending on the data.

## 4. Resuming Modified Campus Operations

- Once any appropriate modifications are made, the school will return to in-person and indoor activities.
- All students in quarantine or supportive isolation will participate in programming as remote learners until they are cleared to return to campus by the Deerfield Academy Health Center team. For close contacts who test negative and remain asymptomatic, the expected duration of quarantine should be no less than 14 days.
- Deerfield Academy will continue to communicate proactively and transparently with any updates as modified campus operations resume.
- Anyone with a confirmed case of COVID-19 will be cleared to return to campus and/or released from supportive isolation by the Deerfield Academy Health Center team using the most current guidance from the CDC and in consultation with local public health officials.

## / PRACTICE AND TRAINING /

- As an administrative team, we have gone through several tabletop exercises to prepare for a positive case on campus, and we will continue to drill our plan to prepare for different scenarios.
- During the opening days of school, all students will have practice with the expectations of Quarantine and Quiet periods.
- During the opening week of school, we will conduct a COVID-19 positive case response practice exercise as a campus community.
- The key to training will be helping students and employees prepare for a calm, kind, and conservative response to a confirmed case of COVID-19 on campus.

*The above plan is subject to change depending on the particular circumstances of the situation, advice from outside experts, the most current guidance from the CDC and Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and directives given from local public health officials.*