



# TOWN OF DUXBURY

BOARD OF HEALTH  
TOWN OFFICES  
878 TREMONT STREET  
DUXBURY, MASSACHUSETTS 02332-4499

Tracy L. Mayo R.S./R.E.H.S.  
Health Agent

Phone: (781) 934-1100  
Facsimile: (781) 934-1118

## **COVID-19 Case Investigation and Contact Tracing updates effective immediately December 9, 2021**

DPH has provided guidance to local health departments on core requirements for COVID-19 case investigation and contact tracing taking into consideration the current status of the pandemic, the Commonwealth's success in vaccinating its residents, and the knowledge about viral transmission, risk of severe illness among certain vulnerable individuals, and the dynamics of outbreaks accumulated over the past 21 months.

The importance of contact tracing as a mitigation measure is significantly reduced as more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  of Massachusetts residents are fully vaccinated. Fully vaccinated people are less likely to acquire COVID-19 infection, are not required to quarantine when exposed to a confirmed case, and even when they do get COVID-19, are likely to have a shorter infectious period.

Therefore, the pre-vaccine urgency to reach out to every confirmed COVID-19 case and close contact and to daily manage these individuals through their isolation and quarantine periods has dramatically lessened.

Given the current, likely weather-related increase in COVID-19 cases, local health departments are advised to deploy their clinical and epidemiologic resources to maximum efficiency, focusing on areas of greatest need. Previously routine case investigation and contact tracing activities may be substantially curtailed without increasing risk to the public.

**What that means is that not every individual who tests positive for COVID-19 will be contacted by the town's public health nurse. The efforts of case investigation will be focused on daycares, preschools, the Duxbury Public Schools, long term care and assisted living facilities and any clusters of disease that have evidence of ongoing transmission.**

The DPH isolation and quarantine information website: COVID-19 isolation and quarantine information | Mass.gov, [www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-isolation-and-quarantine-information](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-isolation-and-quarantine-information) has information and detailed instructions on what measures should be taken if you test positive for COVID-19 or are identified as a close contact to a positive case.

As always, please feel free to contact the Duxbury Board of Health with any questions or concerns.

"The Mission of the Town of Duxbury is to deliver excellent services to the community in the most fiscally responsible and innovative manner while endeavoring to broaden our sense of community and preserve the unique character of our town."