

# MPTC

\*Excellence Through Education\*

<b>Policy:</b> <b>Protocols for Responding to COVID in an MPTC Operated Academy</b>	<b>Policy No.:</b> 2.01 *This policy is subject to ongoing revision at the direction of the Department of Public Health and replaces all other COVID and Vaccination policies
<b>Effective Date:</b> February 1, 2022 <b>Version:</b> 4	<b>Issuing Authority:</b> Chief Robert J. Ferullo (ret.), Executive Director

The Municipal Police Training Committee (“MPTC”) is committed to providing a safe training environment. In establishing this protocol for responding to COVID at its academies, the MPTC utilizes guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Department of Public Health, and the Centers for Disease Control. The MPTC is not currently mandating COVID vaccinations and boosters for student officers at its academies, but it is strongly recommending these measures as an important means of minimizing severe symptoms, preventing the spread of COVID to fellow student officers and staff, and maximizing the training experience. Moreover, student officers who are not fully vaccinated/boostered will be required to adhere to lengthier quarantine protocols if they have been in close contact with someone who has COVID.

In the event someone at an MPTC academy becomes infected with COVID, or has close contact with someone who has COVID, the goal of this policy is to provide direction to members of the academy.

**COVID Symptoms:** COVID symptoms include but are not limited to a cough, fever or chills, difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, headache, muscle or body aches, nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea, fatigue, runny nose, or nasal congestion (not due to other known causes, such as allergies). People with one or more of these symptoms should obtain a COVID test.

**Close Contact:** Being in close contact with someone who has COVID means having been less than six (6) feet away from an infected person for a cumulative total of fifteen (15) minutes or more over a twenty-four (24) hour period (for example, three individual five (5) minute exposures for a total of fifteen (15) minutes in one day). An infected person can spread the virus beginning two (2) days prior to the onset of symptoms.

**Close Contact but Fully Vaccinated:** Anyone who has been in close contact with someone who has COVID but is fully vaccinated and asymptomatic does NOT need to quarantine but does need to wear a well-fitted mask in the presence of others for ten (10) days and monitor for symptoms for ten (10)

days, with “Day One” being the first full day after last close contact with the person infected. CDC guidance is to test five days after the close contact, even if asymptomatic. If symptoms develop, the person should stay home until test results are known.

**Close Contact and Unvaccinated OR Close Contact and More Than Six (6) Months Out From the Second Moderna or Pfizer shot (two months for Johnson and Johnson) and Not Yet Boostered:**

Anyone who has been in close contact with someone who has COVID and is (a) unvaccinated or (b) is more than six (6) months out from the second Moderna or Pfizer shot (two months from the Johnson and Johnson shot) and not yet boosted, must quarantine for five (5) days, wear a well-fitted mask in the presence of others for ten (10) days, and monitor for symptoms for ten (10) days, with “Day One” being the first full day after last close contact with the person infected. CDC guidance is to test five days after the close contact, even if asymptomatic. If symptoms develop, the person should stay home until test results are known.

**Positive Test Result and Symptomatic:** Anyone, whether vaccinated or not, who tests positive for COVID and is symptomatic must isolate for ten (10) days, with “Day One” being the first full day after the test specimen was collected.

**Positive Test Result but Asymptomatic:** Anyone, whether vaccinated or not, who tests positive for COVID but is asymptomatic must isolate for five (5) days and wear a will-fitted mask in the presence of others for the next (5) days, with “Day One” being the first full day after the test specimen was collected.

**Testing Sites:** Every Academy should have a list of available test sites. You can go to [COVID Testing Site Locator](#) to find a location near you.

**Vaccination Sites:** You can go to [Mass.gov COVID Vaccination Locator](#) to book an appointment.

**Remote Learning:** When a student officer must stay home for quarantine or isolation and the schedule allows for remote classroom learning, the academy director may make that option available to the student officer regardless of vaccination status.

**Notification to Headquarters:** The academy director will notify the MPTC Director of Training of any reports of COVID in the academy or persons who have had close contact with someone who has COVID. The academy director will provide daily updates on the results of the testing during the shutdown period.

**Potential Academy Closure:** If there are multiple confirmed COVID cases (student officers or academy staff) in the academy at one time, or a series of single cases in a short time span, the Academy Director and the Director of Training shall decide if the academy needs to be closed for a short period of time (1-3 days) for extensive cleaning. For COVID outbreaks that may require an academy to close for more than three days, the MPTC Executive Director and the Secretary of Public Safety and Security shall decide if the academy needs to be closed and for how long.