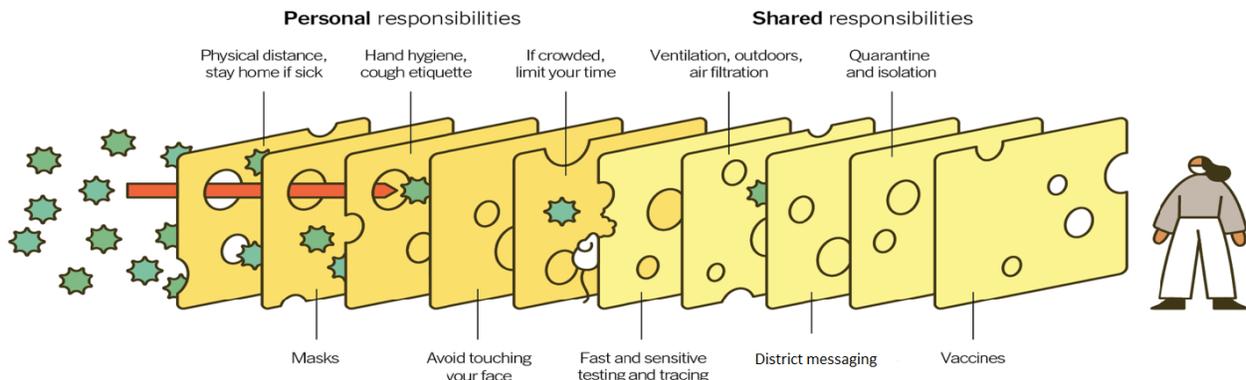


## COVID Mitigation Measures

Hingham Public Schools will be implementing a series of mitigation measures to prevent the spread of COVID in our schools. These measures are most effective when used in combination with each other. Measures include: masks, air quality, hand washing, frequent sanitation of high-touch surfaces and materials, vaccinations, and appropriate distancing. These mitigation measures, often referred to as the “swiss cheese” model, acknowledge that no single measure is 100% effective, but when used in conjunction with all other measures, provide our best defense against the spread of COVID in our educational community.

### Multiple Layers Improve Success

The Swiss Cheese Respiratory Pandemic Defense recognizes that no single intervention is perfect at preventing the spread of the coronavirus. Each intervention (layer) has holes.



Source: Adapted from Ian M. Mackay (virologydownunder.com) and James T. Reason. Illustration by Rose Wong

## Introduction to Testing Program

As part of the district’s mitigation efforts to ensure a safe and healthy school year for everyone, in-school testing will be offered to all students and staff. Hingham Public Schools will be offering the following testing protocols during the 2021-2022 academic year:

- **Symptomatic Testing:** This protocol will be used for students and staff who develop symptoms while at school. It is a rapid test performed by qualified health professionals from CIC<sup>1</sup>.
  - *This testing model will be used for all grades PK-12 (and PG)*
- **Test and Stay (Close contact testing):** This protocol will be used to test unvaccinated asymptomatic individuals who have been identified as close contacts. It is designed to allow close contacts to stay in school vs. quarantining at home and missing school. It is a daily rapid test performed for at least five days following exposure by qualified health professionals from CIC.
  - *This testing model will be used for all grades PK-12 (and PG)*
- **Routine (Weekly) COVID Pooled Testing:** This protocol will be used for all individuals who opt-in to participate in the weekly COVID testing program. Testing will be conducted one time per week.
  - *This testing model will be used for grades PK-6*

## Testing Days and Program Start

The district’s testing program will begin on Monday, September 13, 2021. The start date allows time for the gathering of consent to participate. Instructions on how to provide consent are included below.

### *Pool Testing Days*

The current pooled testing schedule has been established:

<b>Monday</b>	Foster Elementary School
<b>Tuesday</b>	East Elementary School
<b>Wednesday</b>	Hingham Middle School
<b>Thursday</b>	Plymouth River Elementary School
<b>Friday</b>	South Elementary School

If, for any reason, school is not in session on a particular day of the week, schools scheduled for that day school is not in session would be rescheduled for testing the next day school is in session, along with the typically scheduled school/s.

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<sup>1</sup> “CIC Health offers comprehensive COVID-19 testing services that are accessible, fast, and easy. The health tech company has operated dozens of public testing sites and has provided testing services to more than 600 schools and 450 organizations. CIC Health also ran four mass vaccination sites — including Gillette Stadium and Fenway Park — and pop-up sites in more than 20 communities in Massachusetts. Headquartered in Cambridge, Mass., the company has facilitated more than 2 million PCR tests and over 1.2 million vaccine doses.” (CIC Health, retrieved from <https://www.cic-health.com/#services>, September 2021)

*What if my child is identified as a close contact between now and the start of the testing?*

Because the district's testing program begins on Monday, September 13, 2021, it is possible that your child/ren may be identified as close contacts. You should be following the quarantining guidance provided by the Hingham Department of Health. Your child/ren will be allowed to attend school if you provide a negative test result to your school principal (only applicable for 9/8/21, 9/9/21, 9/10/21).

*What if my child has been identified as a close contact during an evening or weekend activity?*

Unvaccinated students identified as a close-contact during any outside of school activity will be allowed to return to school the next day, provided the parent has provided consent for participation in the testing program. However, students will not be permitted to ride the bus and will need private transportation to school. Once the test is administered in school, and the result is negative, the student will be allowed to immediately return to school transportation.

Vaccinated students identified as a close contact during any outside of school activity will be allowed to return to school as long as they are asymptomatic.

### **Additional Information on Testing Program**

For more information on the state testing program, please view this document: [State COVID-19 Testing Program Webinar Slides](#).

For individuals who need to access testing on their own, DPH provides a [searchable database](#) of all currently available testing sites.

### **Consent to Participate**

In order to participate in the district's testing program you are required to provide your informed consent. The consent portal is run by CIC and can be found by clicking [HERE](#).

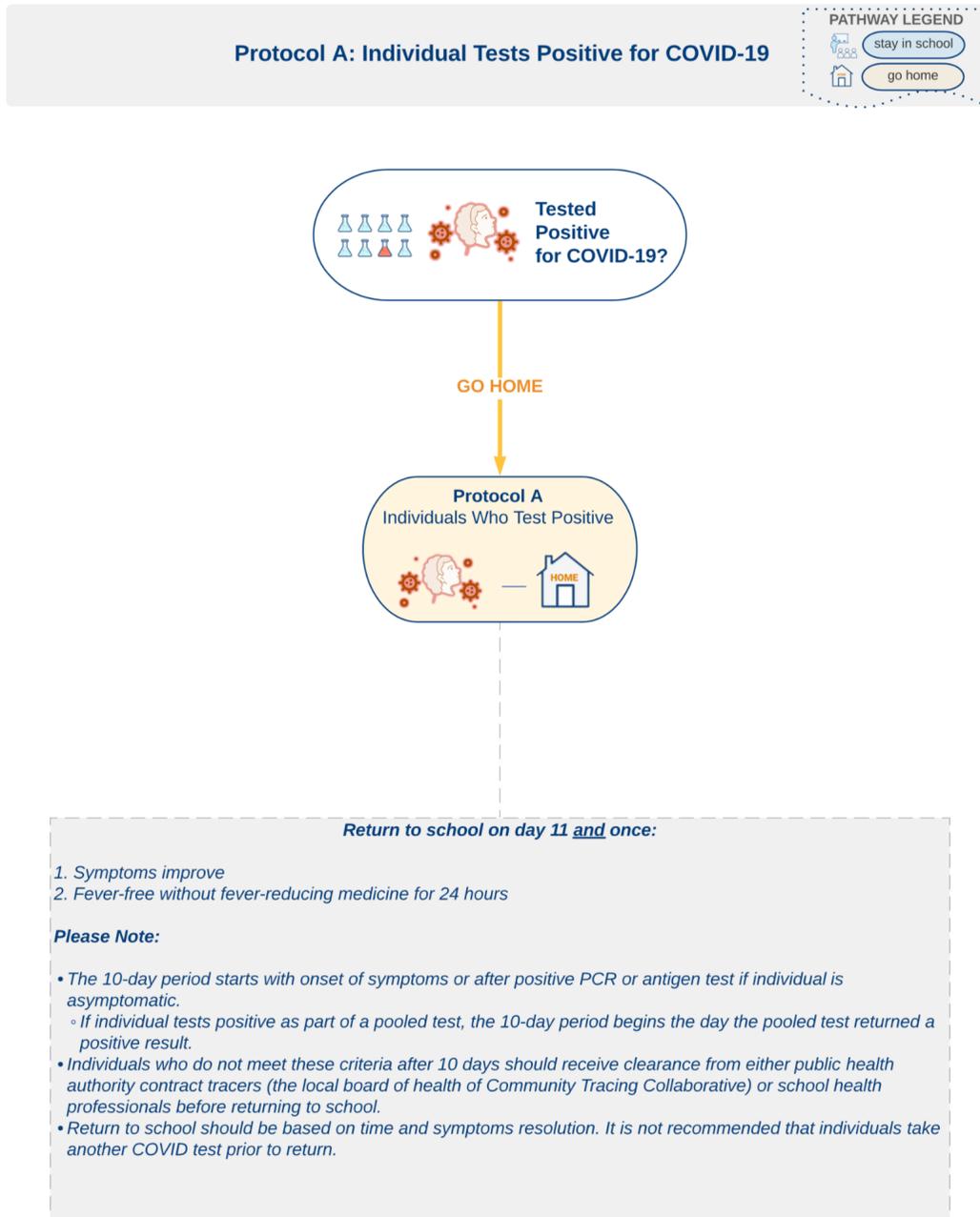
As a reminder, the district's testing program is completely VOLUNTARY and you must provide your informed consent in order for your child to participate. You may opt-in at any time. Please note, however, that if your student has been identified as a close contact, is unvaccinated, and you are not participating in the program they will need to

quarantine, consistent with protocols established by the Hingham Health Department and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

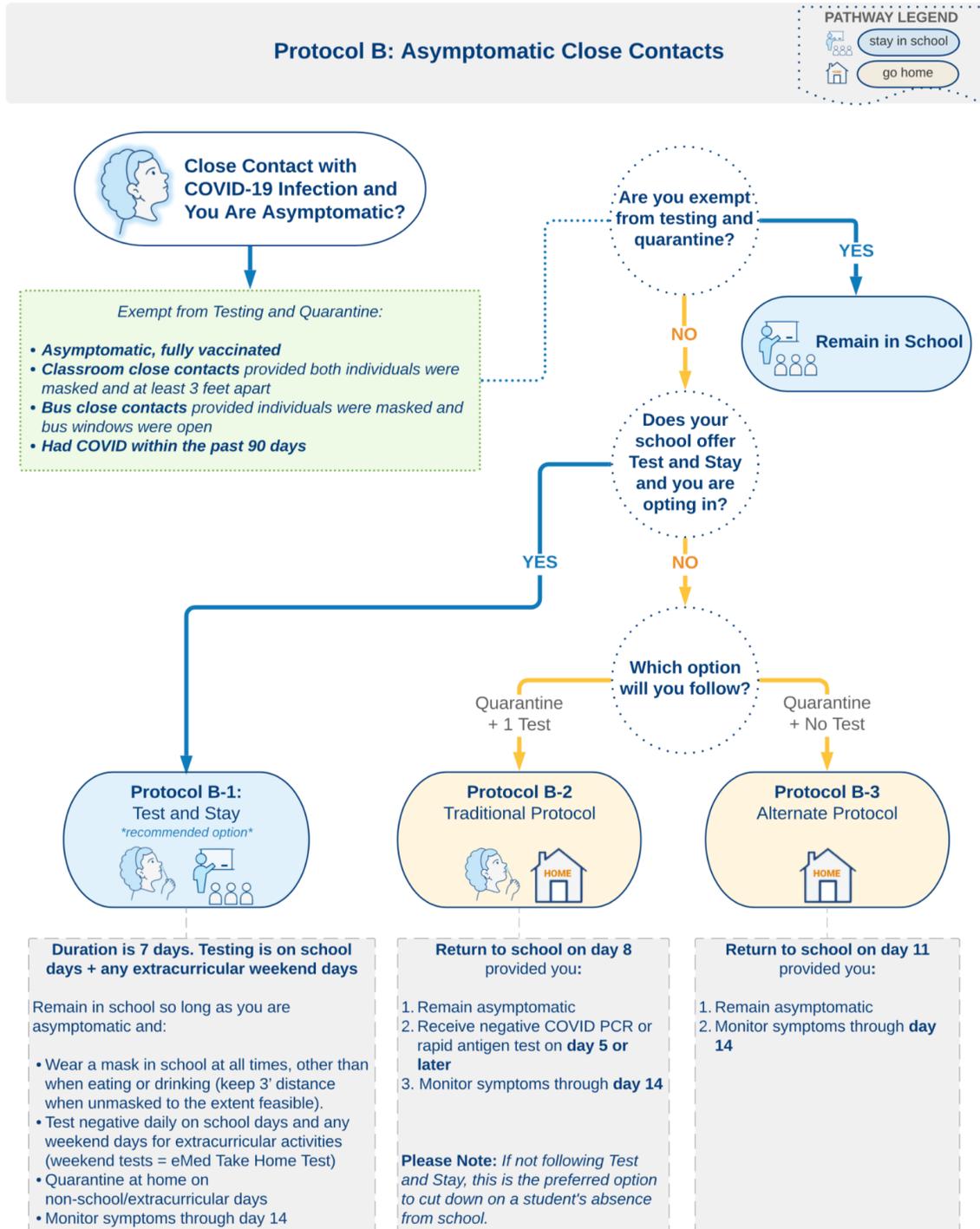
## In-School Protocols

There are three major protocols developed to provide additional contextual information on school-based operations:

### Protocol A: Individual Tests Positive for COVID-19



## Protocol B: Asymptomatic Close Contacts



# Protocol C: Symptomatic Individuals at School

