



The Public Schools of Brookline
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V. James Marini, Ph. D.
Interim Superintendent

November 17, 2020

Dear PSB Staff and Families,

As the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, we all have so much to be thankful for. I am thankful to our staff - teachers, nurses, principals and vice principals, secretaries, custodians and administrators, literally everyone - who have worked so hard on behalf of our students to reopen school this fall. Opening our schools could not have been achieved without your outstanding efforts. I am also thankful for the support and understanding we have received from our families across the district through these times of uncertainty and ongoing changes to our reopening plans.

While schools have successfully reopened, we can't deny that things do feel different. Some students are learning in a fully remote setting, others are attending school in smaller cohorts, and our very youngest are in school full-time. Through it all, we are wearing masks, keeping socially distant from one another, and following strict safety protocols. This is a very challenging time and we look forward to the day when we can all be back together enjoying each other's company free from the fear of spreading the COVID-19 virus. The good news is that a promising vaccine is on the horizon that allows us to begin to see light at the end of this long tunnel.

In these unprecedented times, I understand the desire to want to maintain the holiday traditions that anchor us to family and friends, but this year is different. The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) has stated that travel increases your chance of getting and spreading COVID-19 and that staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others.

In addition to the CDC guidance, the [Commonwealth of Massachusetts](#) has issued travel regulations. Most notably, if you visit a high-risk state, you must fill out a travel form and either produce a negative COVID-19 test administered up to 72 hours prior to returning to Massachusetts or quarantine for 14 days.

Finally, the PSB School Health Services team has also put together [guidance attached to this message](#) with tips on keeping safe during the Thanksgiving break.

For the safety of the entire community, and to allow schools to resume safely on Monday, November 30, it is very important that staff and families alike carefully follow all of this important guidance. I acknowledge that the sacrifices we all continue to make to keep our loved ones and our community safe are not easy and hope that however you are celebrating this Thanksgiving, you have a safe, healthy and happy holiday.

Sincerely,

V. James Marini
Interim Superintendent