

The communication below provides important information from the Public Schools of Brookline. Translated versions are available at the following links:

- [Arabic: الرجاء الضغط هنا للترجمة العربية.](#)
- [Chinese: 点击这里查看中文翻译.](#)
- [Haitian Creole: Klike la a pou tradiksyon kreyòl ayisyen an.](#)
- [Hebrew: אנא לחץ כאן לצפייה במסמך בעברית.](#)
- [Japanese: ここをクリックして日本語の翻訳にアクセスしてください.](#)
- [Korean: 한국어 번역을 보시려면 여기를 클릭하십시오.](#)
- [Portuguese: Clique aqui para a tradução em português.](#)
- [Russian: Нажмите здесь, чтобы получить доступ к русскому переводу.](#)
- [Spanish: Haga clic aquí para acceder a la traducción al español.](#)
- [Vietnamese: Nhấn vào đây để truy cập bản dịch tiếng Việt.](#)

Dear Students, Staff, and Families,

Your School Nurses would like to welcome you back to school. We hope you had a healthy, restful, and fun winter break.

First and foremost, we want to THANK YOU for your vigilance and active participation in adhering to our guidelines and best practices so that we can remain in school as safely as possible during this ongoing pandemic. We know it can be overwhelming, and sometimes exhaustive with information, emails, and changes to keep up with COVID-19. We strive to keep you informed of important information and have included our new protocols based on updated CDC and DESE COVID-19 guidance. [Click Here to review them now.](#)

[Refer to the full DESE communication HERE.](#)

As we follow the rise in COVID-19 cases, it is vital that we remain steadfast in our mitigation strategies.

Recommendations for everyone

- Get vaccinated and, if eligible, boosted.
- Wear a well-fitting mask in schools and in public. KN95 masks will be made available to staff. Students may find surgical masks more comfortable to wear all day as long as they are sized properly.
- If accessible, take a rapid test before returning to school. This is not a requirement for attendance.
- If symptomatic, it is important to stay home. Test with an at-home test if possible (refer to guidelines), even if symptoms are mild. If the first test is negative, plan to repeat if symptoms persist or worsen.
- Maintain daily self- monitoring for illness assessment as attested at the start of the school year.

- Follow mitigation strategies of hand washing/sanitizing; proper mask-wearing; maximizing space when feasible including on rugs and during class meetings; maintain accurate and consistent seating plans.

A reminder of COVID-19 symptoms list:

- Fever (100.0° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell
- Muscle aches or body aches
- Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
- Sore throat, when in combination with other symptoms
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea when in combination with other symptoms (may not return to school until being symptom free for 24 hours and able to tolerate fluids and food)
- Headache, when in combination with other symptoms
- Fatigue, when in combination with other symptoms
- Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies), when in combination with other symptoms

Testing at School

- Please sign up for the T&S and symptomatic testing programs even if you have done so previously. [CIC Health consent portal here](#)

Students and staff for whom we do not have signed consent will not be tested at school. We will no longer contact parents or staff to allow for last-minute sign-ups. Students will be sent home. This has taken an unmanageable amount of time and work in the health offices.

As a reminder, testing is only for individuals who become symptomatic at school or for unvaccinated individuals identified as close contacts in the school setting.

We also recommend that you send reusable water bottles from home, each day.

Please continue to notify your school nurse of positive cases and of COVID-19 symptoms.

With warm wishes for a happy and healthy new year!

PSB Student Health Services