



## The Public Schools of Brookline

Brookline Town Hall

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we welcome more students [back to school with the Hybrid Model](#), I wanted to remind you of the critical health information we sent in September. Please review the following health updates carefully and reach out to your school nurse with any questions.

### **Parent Return to School Checklist:**

All students returning to school must complete the following:

- [Complete a health attestation form for your student\(s\)](#)**. Please complete this form for each student enrolled in Brookline. By completing this form, you agree to complete a health assessment for your students at home before coming to school each day, verifying that they are without symptoms. You will also agree to keep students at home if they display symptoms of COVID-19. You can complete this online form at [www.brookline.k12.ma.us/attendance](http://www.brookline.k12.ma.us/attendance). We will strictly adhere to DESE guidelines for keeping symptomatic students home from school.
- Please call the school when your child will be absent and give the reason for absence, including symptoms so that the school nurse can follow up appropriately.
- Verify state-required immunizations are current and submit documentation to the school.**  
Please note the following changes relevant to the 2020-21 school year:
  - All students entering grade 7 need a Tdap and a meningococcal conjugate vaccine for school entry;
  - All students entering grade 11 need the meningococcal vaccine for school entry;

- All students entering grades PreK-12 need a flu vaccine. Families have until December 31, 2020, to receive the flu vaccine.
- The Brookline Health Department will offer three flu clinics this fall. Registration is required. <https://www.brooklinema.gov/446/Health-Department> to register:
- Saturday, October 24, at Larz Anderson Park (drive-through only)
  - Saturday, November 7, on Pierce School Grounds (drive-through and walk-in)
  - Sunday, November 15, on Pierce School Grounds. (drive-through and walk-in)
- Provide an updated medication permission form signed by your child's health care provider to the school nurse if your child needs medication at school.** Please note that due to COVID-19 protocols, nebulizer treatments will not be allowed at school. Please call or email your school nurse to make an appointment to bring medication and forms to school.
- Alert your school nurse regarding any chronic or acute medical needs or changes in your child's health, i.e., food allergies, seasonal allergies, etc.** Please call or email your school nurse to make an in-person (outside) or virtual appointment to review medical information.
- Update your child's emergency contact card and establish a plan to pick up your child within 30 minutes if called by the school nurse.** Please be sure the nurse has a verified phone number and email address on file.

School nurses continue to collaborate with the Brookline Health Department staff to monitor potential COVID-19 cases and any confirmed positive cases. School principals will notify the classroom and the building-based school community if there has been a confirmed case of COVID-19 in your child's school or classroom. Per legal requirements, no names or identifying information will be provided in these notifications. Reports of COVID-19 symptoms should be reported directly to the school nurse.

**Recommended Home Supplies to Keep Your Family Healthy:**

- A working thermometer at home
- An adequate supply of face coverings for each school day so there is at least one to wear and a backup. If possible, please put your child's name on the masks
- A paper bag/container with your child's name on it to have a place to store the mask
- A refillable water bottle (water bottle filling stations will be available; water fountains will be closed)

- ❑ Hand sanitizer if you choose to send your child with a personal supply (not required)

### **Risk reduction strategies**

All staff and all students PreK-12 must wear masks for in-person activities throughout the day except while eating, drinking, or during mask breaks. Exceptions will be made for students who cannot wear masks due to age, medical condition, disability impact, or other health and safety considerations. A letter from the health care provider is required for all mask exemptions. If possible, these students may wear other suitable face coverings. Each classroom will have a back-up supply of face coverings available as needed.

### **Types of masks**

The masks recommended here are not surgical masks or respirators. Currently, those are critical supplies that should be reserved for healthcare workers and other first responders. Masks with valves are prohibited, as are balaclavas, bandanas, and gaiters.

### **Suitable Masks for staff and students should:**

- Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face,
- Completely cover the nose and mouth,
- Be secured with ties or ear loops,
- Include multiple layers of fabric,
- Allow for breathing without restriction, and
- Be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape.

Students will be given a minimum of two mask breaks per day. 6 ft. distancing will be strictly enforced during mask breaks.

### **COVID-19 Notification Procedures**

As a reminder, PSB will follow a different set of procedures with regards to attendance and student health for the 2020-21 school year. If your child displays ANY symptoms of COVID-19, please keep them home and disclose this information to the school nurse as soon as possible. Learn more about our reporting procedures through this [flowchart here](#).

Schools will maintain six feet of physical distance between individuals whenever possible. Close physical contact will be limited overall. Students and staff will wash/sanitize hands upon arrival at school and frequently throughout the school day. Multi-stall bathrooms will get scheduled cleaning and

disinfecting once during the middle ⅓ of the school day and after school. Desks and common touchpoints will be sprayed with an electrostatic gun to disinfect the surface after buildings are closed. Finally, all teachers and building staff will have access to cleaning materials to disinfect surfaces when children are not in the area.

As CDC, DESE, Massachusetts, and Local Boards of Health continue to update protocols around COVID-19, we are committed to providing you with the most up to date information. You can visit our website ([www.brookline.k12.ma.us/nurses](http://www.brookline.k12.ma.us/nurses)) to access health documents, necessary forms, and nurse contact information. We understand that there are uncertainties and fears as we navigate this school year. Our goal is to support students, families, and staff to create a culture of health and safety in our schools. We remain committed to providing you with tools and information to keep students and staff healthy and safe in our schools.

We look forward to meeting the challenges of this school year together.

Sincerely,

Tricia Laham

*Coordinator of School Health Services*