

Town of Brookline  
Back to School Parent  
Guidelines  
September 2020

# Looking at 2020-2021 Through a Covid-19 Lens

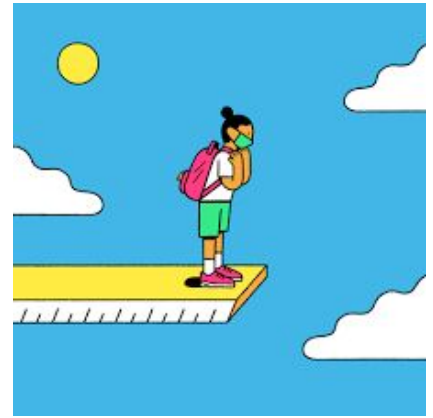


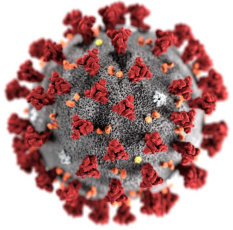
# Welcome Back!

\*The beginning of this school year is a beginning like no other, and our collective success is based on building a culture of personal responsibility, communication, and collaboration for the safest possible learning experience.

\*This presentation is designed to provide you with the tools and information needed for reassurance that your children will be in an environment that will provide the least possible risk.

\*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.





# Covid-19



- Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome. 2019-nCoV is a new strain that has not been previously identified in humans and causes Covid-19.
- Current evidence suggests that COVID-19 spreads between people through direct, indirect (through contaminated objects or surfaces), or close contact with infected people via mouth and nose secretions.
- These include saliva, respiratory secretions or secretion droplets. These are released from the mouth or nose when an infected person coughs, sneezes, speaks or sings, for example. People who are in close contact (within 6 feet) with an infected person can catch COVID-19 when those infectious droplets get into their mouth, nose or eyes.

[https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab\\_1](https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab_1)

# SHARED DEFINITIONS UNDERSTOOD DISTRICT-WIDE

- Isolation – refers to separating people who are infected with COVID-19 from others to prevent the spread; this period lasts a minimum of 10 days from either the onset of symptoms or specimen collection of a positive test in the absence of symptoms
- Quarantine – refers to separating people who have been exposed to a positive case of COVID-19 to prevent the spread; this period lasts for 14 days from the date of last exposure regardless of testing status
- Close Contact – individual who has been within 6 feet of distance to a confirmed case of COVID-19 for 15 minutes during infectious period which begins 48 hours prior either to symptom onset or specimen collection of a positive test in the absence of symptoms

# Parent Return to School Checklist:

Verify state required immunizations for school are current and submit documentation **\*\*Flu vaccine is required by December 31.**

Follow Massachusetts travel orders requiring quarantine upon return from most locations

[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.](#) Note: nebulizer treatments will not be allowed at school. *Providers may consider ordering a metered dose inhaler with a spacer for school use instead.* [PSB School Health Services](#)

Alert school nurse regarding any chronic or acute medical needs, i.e. food allergies, seasonal allergies, etc.

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.

## Gather supplies you will need regularly:

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 – put your child's name on the masks

A paper bag/container with your child's name on it in order 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)

# Multi-Layered Risk Reduction Strategies

- ★ **Face Coverings: Cover Your Nose And Mouth**
- ★ **Physical Distancing: Maintain appropriate distance to prevent exposure**
- ★ **Hygiene: Keep hands and the environment clean**
- ★ **Daily Assessment of Illness: Stay home if sick**

# Face Coverings: Cover your nose and mouth

**All staff and all students** PreK -12 are required to wear masks for in-person activities, throughout the day except while eating, drinking, or during mask breaks, unless contraindicated. Contraindications may include those for whom it is not safe to do so due to age, medical condition, disability impact, or other health and safety considerations.

A back-up supply of face coverings will be available as needed.

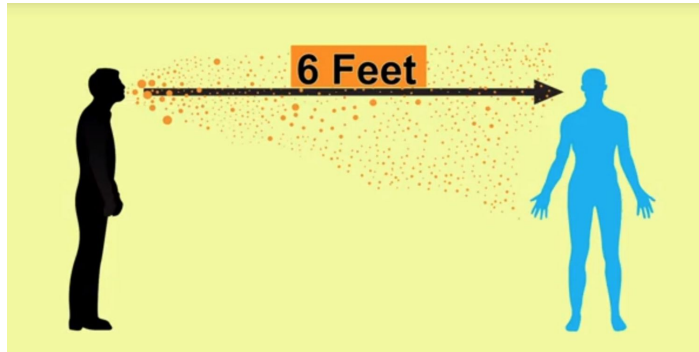
**Mask Breaks:** Will be determined at the school level and will be scheduled throughout the day when students can be 6 feet apart.





# Physical Distancing: Maintain appropriate distance to prevent exposure

→ Classrooms will be arranged with the goal to maintain 6 feet distance between individuals.



→ Close physical contact will be limited; 6 feet of physical distance will be encouraged during transitions and throughout the day; briefly passing others closer than 6 feet in the hallway or classrooms is acceptable.

# Hygiene: Keeping hands clean

Students and staff will wash/sanitize hands upon arrival to school and frequently throughout the day, including, but not limited to:

- Upon arrival/before dismissal
- Before/after eating
- After bathroom use
- Before/after going outside
- Before/after touching mask



Hand sanitizer will be placed at strategic locations throughout the building. Students will also be permitted to have a personal supply of hand sanitizer.

# Daily Assessment of Illness: Stay home if sick

Staff and students will be required to complete a health assessment at home prior to coming to school **each day**. Anyone who has COVID-19 symptoms must stay home from school. Anyone who develops symptoms during the school day will be dismissed.

- Fever (100° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills
- Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Headache, *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Muscle aches or body aches
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- 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*




[School Attendance Agreement](#)

# Potential Incident: Onset of Symptoms

Who	If	Then
Staff/Student	Develops symptoms at home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stay Home</li><li>• Staff follow sick day procedure and alert nurse</li><li>• Family will alert school and nurse to absence</li><li>• Contact PCP to arrange testing</li></ul>
Staff/Student	Develops symptoms at school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Proceed to medical waiting room (MWR)</li><li>• Staff alert building supervisor and go home</li><li>• Student must be picked up within 30 min</li><li>• Contact PCP to arrange testing</li></ul>
Student	Develops symptoms on bus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Driver notify school ahead of drop off</li><li>• Student to exit bus first and meet nurse</li><li>• Student must be picked up within 30 min</li><li>• Contact PCP to arrange testing</li></ul>

# COVID-19 TESTING: CONTACT TRACING

If	Then
Symptomatic, <u>Positive</u> Test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Isolate for minimum of 10 days per state guidelines</li><li>• Cooperate with local board of health contact tracer</li><li>• Staff report status to <a href="mailto:HRCovid19@brooklinema.gov">HRCovid19@brooklinema.gov</a></li><li>• Student report status to school nurse</li></ul>
Symptomatic, <u>Negative</u> Test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide documentation of negative test/letter from PCP to school nurse</li><li>• Return to school only after being symptom free <b>24</b> hours without use of medication</li></ul>
Symptomatic, <u>No</u> Test Done	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must conservatively assume likelihood of positive case</li><li>• Isolate for a minimum of 10 days</li><li>• Return to school only after being symptom free <b>24</b> hours without use of medication</li></ul>
Close Contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Status as close contact to positive case to be confirmed by local board of health </li></ul>

# POST INCIDENT: AFTER POSITIVE CASE IDENTIFIED IN SCHOOL

Who	What
Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Affected staff and students will receive notification that a positive case occurred in class*</li><li>• Any close contacts will notified by the school nurse and/or local board of health</li></ul>
School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Entire community will receive notification that a positive case occurred in school*</li></ul>
<i>School-Based COVID-19 Response Team</i>	
Administrator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School leadership will work closely with coordinator of school health and local board of health in determining whether larger school-wide response is required beyond isolation and quarantine of affected individuals</li></ul>
Custodian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Follow guidelines on cleaning and disinfecting specific spaces impacted by positive case</li></ul>
Nurse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Monitor case and work with local board of health to determine eligibility to return</li></ul>
Secretary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Report related absences to administrator and nurse</li></ul>

\* All identifying information will remain confidential

# Additional Reasons to Keep Your Child Home

- Symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 and/or diagnosis: See previous slide
- When identified as a close contact by your Local Board of Health
- Cold Symptoms i.e. nasal discharge, cough, sneeze (if no alternative diagnosis/treatment plan i.e. Asthma, seasonal allergies etc., contact nurse)
- Asthma that requires nebulizer treatment
- Conjunctivitis (Pinkeye) that is purulent
- Ear infection with fever
- Headache with a fever or no improvement with fluids and food
- Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea
- Pain that requires narcotic medication
- Rash with no diagnosis and improvement
- Sore throat with no alternative diagnosis, if diagnosed with Strep Throat must stay home until on antibiotics for 24 hours



# Testing and Testing Sites

- If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or have had an exposure to COVID-19, please reach out to your health care provider.
- Generally, symptomatic persons are covered by insurance for testing.
- Testing for asymptomatic persons can be accessed for free at select locations in Massachusetts and the Metro Boston area.

Massachusetts Testing Site Resources:

<https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-testing>

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/ma-covid-19-testing-sites/download>

City of Boston Testing Site Resources:

<https://www.boston.gov/departments/public-health-commission/map-covid-19-testing-sites>



# FAQ for Families

For additional back to school information, access our frequently asked questions for families document below

[FAQ For Families Link](#)

Thank you from your Brookline school nurses  
We look forward to partnering with you as we head into this new and  
challenging school year

