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Return to School:
Preparing for School Year 2021-2022

Boston Public Schools

September 7, 2021
5:30-7PM
Agenda

- Welcome and Introduction of Interpreters
- Superintendent’s Opening Remarks
- Presentation
- Question and Answer
Welcome Back to In-Person Learning!

- All BPS students will attend school in person.
- **There is no option for virtual learning this year.**
- The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has mandated that all districts hold full time in-person learning for all students.
  - Exceptions for students whose doctors say they cannot safely study in school buildings. DESE has outlined that process [here in an FAQ](#) and [here including medical forms](#).
- DESE requires all students six and older to be registered and attending school full time.
What are the alternative learning options for students in need?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Long-term: Home and Hospital</th>
<th>Isolation: COVID-19 Positive</th>
<th>Quarantine: Close Contact (If no consent for testing)</th>
<th>Classroom Closure</th>
<th>School Closure</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Optional online learning support for student during the quarantine period provided by BPS educators and external partner</td>
<td>Preference to participate in “Test and Stay”</td>
<td>BPHC advises the Superintendent on the need for closure.</td>
<td>BPHC advises the Superintendent on the need for closure.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow the steps on this form which include two required documents to be submitted to the district</td>
<td>Optional online learning support for student during the quarantine period provided by BPS educators and external partner</td>
<td>BPS works with DESE to determine student instruction</td>
<td>BPS works with DESE to determine student instruction</td>
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What is the option for high risk students vulnerable to COVID-19?

The school district will approve access to online learning for students who meet a very narrow set of criteria defined by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). This is considered “Home and Hospital” instruction which will be provided through a virtual option.

- DESE Guidance
- Process to be considered for a remote option (only to be approved if student meets a narrow set of criteria outlined by DESE).
- Students will have access to educators from their home school
- Requires approval from the student’s doctor
Modified Home and Hospital Process for High Risk Students Vulnerable to COVID-19
(This is not for students who may require isolation or quarantine due to COVID-19)

1. Parents/Guardians are concerned about in-person learning for School Year 2021-2022 due to a health consideration.

2. Family reviews relevant DESE Guidance (Policy CMR 28.03(3)(c) & 8/20/21 Update). Family believes that the student will not be able to learn at school for at least 14 school days during SY21-22 due to a health consideration.

3. Family consults with their Primary Care Physician (PCP) and/or medical specialist to discuss if the student's medical condition prohibits them from learning in person. If the physician asserts that the student needs an at-home learning accommodation, the doctor completes the Physician’s Statement Form. AND

   The parent or guardian completes the COVID-19 Cover Sheet.

4. Family submits the completed Physician’s Statement and COVID-19 Cover Sheet to the school nurse for review. Nurse works with family to add in any missing information. School nurses can reach out to health services for consultation, if needed.

5. The Physician’s Statement Form and the COVID-19 Cover Sheet are submitted together by the nurse to homeandhospital@bostonpublicschools.org. If the student is on an IEP and is unable to attend school in person for more than 60 school days, then the school will be required to hold a team meeting.

6a. If approved, Home and Hospital team communicates approval via email. Within 48 hours:
   - Student is coded as Home and Hospital in the BPS Student Information System (Aspen) by the Home and Hospital team.
   - School team enrolls the student in the appropriate courses in EdOptions Academy and the student begins at-home learning.

6b. If denied, Home and Hospital team communicates denial via email. The student is expected to continue to attend school in-person right away.

Click here to view the PDF.
What happens if my student is identified as a close contact from a school exposure? Do they need to quarantine?

**Student is identified as a close contact by Health Services**

- **If Consented**, CIC team deployed for “Test and Stay”
  - If Negative and no symptoms, student attends class as normal and continues “Test and Stay” protocol for 7 days
  - If Positive student’s parent/guardian called, student goes home, nurse notifies BPS health services using this form, contact tracing begins
  - Positive COVID Students will have optional online learning support for quarantine period provided by BPS educators and external partner

- **No Consent** CIC can call for consent, if parent/guardian does not consent and no exemption, student must quarantine.
  - If Negative and no symptoms, student attends class as normal and continues “Test and Stay” protocol for 7 days
  - If Positive student’s parent/guardian called, student goes home, nurse notifies BPS health services using this form, contact tracing begins
  - Students will have optional online learning support for quarantine period provided by BPS educators and external partner

**“Test and Stay” Definition:**
Test and Stay is a state program that allows students identified as close contacts to use a rapid COVID-19 test for 7 days. If they are negative and not showing symptoms, they can attend in person learning.
How will my student safely eat meals and snacks?

**All Students (K0-12):**
- Students will be permitted to remove their masks only while eating and shall put them back on when finished eating, to leave the table area or in general when walking through the cafeteria.
- When eating indoors, windows/doors should be at least slightly opened to improve air circulation.
- Lunch can occur in cafeterias, outdoor spaces, or classrooms following CDC guidance and in line with a school’s established plan with Food and Nutrition Services.

**Grades Grades K0-6 Students:**
- Students will be seated at assigned spots with their classmates.
- Lunch monitors will work with teachers and administrators to establish and maintain assigned seating.
- Outdoor spaces may be utilized for snack time and/or lunch to increase spacing.

**Grades 7-12 Students:**
- We are working with School Leaders to continue to understand how to best implement lunchtime safety precautions based on the number of students, the limitations of each facility and other factors.
CDC Prevention Strategies

- Vaccination
- Consistent and correct mask use
- Continue Screen Testing
- Hand Hygiene and respiratory etiquette
- Monitor Your Health Daily - Stay Home When Showing Symptoms
- Physical Distancing
- Contact Tracing, Ventilation, Cleaning and Disinfection
Is your child eligible for a vaccine?

- Students 12+ are eligible for a Pfizer Vaccine
- We encourage students to get their vaccine before school starts.
- Visit the City of Boston’s website for information on where to get your vaccine
- In partnership with Boston Medical Center, we are offering vaccine clinics at many of our schools.
- More than 50 schools have scheduled to host a vaccine clinic and are adding more every day.
Who is required to wear a mask at school? Everyone.

All BPS staff and students are required to wear masks while indoors
- Regardless of vaccination status
- In all BPS buildings
- On the school bus

Removing your mask
- Outdoors during recess
- On a mask break
- While eating

DO choose masks that
- Have two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric
- Completely cover your nose and mouth
- Fit snugly against the sides of your face and don’t have gaps
- Have a nose wire to prevent air from leaking out of the top of the mask

Image credit: CDC
All testing is **free, confidential** and managed by the Massachusetts DESE’s approved vendor CIC Health.

Parents must consent in order for their student to participate. We strongly encourage participation. Consent forms were sent digitally and paper forms can be found here.

To date, more than 11,000 students have completed COVID-19 testing consent forms using our new digital tool, Permission Click.

1. **Pooled testing with follow-up testing:**
   - Shallow nasal samples are collected and kept separate before being grouped at the lab.
   - If a group tests positive, individual follow-up testing occurs at the lab, without a second sample collection.
   - Individual test results are reported to the Health Services.
2. **Testing for students with symptoms**
   - Shallow nasal swab samples collected at school using the “BinaxNOW rapid antigen test”

3. **"Test and Stay" (close contact testing)**
   - Shallow nasal swab samples collected at school using the “BinaxNOW rapid antigen test”
     - Tests are administered daily from the first day of exposure for at least seven (7) days by CIC Health staff
Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Sensors
- Installation of Indoor Air quality sensors began July 12th

Air Purifiers Filter Replacement
- Filters will be replaced every six months.

MERV-13 Filter Replacement
- Filters will be replaced as part of the regular maintenance of the systems.

Summer Cleaning
- BPS custodial crews are completing sanitation of buildings

Sanitation Stations
- Schools have sanitation stations in hallways and classrooms with ample supplies in stock for replacement.

PPE
- The first delivery of PPE has been delivered to schools.
Are there changes to transportation?

- Students and staff will be required to wear masks on buses this fall.
- Buses will be disinfected once per day.
- Per DESE guidelines, every other window will be opened 2-inches.
- Buses are routed and assigned; bus assignments have been sent via email.
- MBTA passes for eligible students in grades 7-12 will be available for pick up by students at their school on the first day.
- Bus monitors will be provided to all students who require them, in accordance with student IEPs; bus monitor hiring is ongoing.
- Summer bus maintenance is ongoing and on-track for reopening.
Return to Normal Calendar Year
- Interscholastic Athletics (9-12)
  - Fall (Aug 20- Nov 25)
  - Winter (Nov 29-March 19)
  - Spring (March 21- June 19)
- Middle Level Athletics (6-8)
- Special Olympics/Unified Sports (K-12)

Summer Engagement/ Physical Activity
- Girls Volleyball Clinics (5 Sites/190 students)
- Outdoor Strength & Conditioning

Fall Athletics/ Health & Safety Guidance
- Masks required for all indoor activities
- Developing additional athletic guidance
- Following most up-to-date State MIAA guidelines
What can students expect in the classroom?

Academic Plans

- Children with medical conditions which prohibit in-person learning for short or long-term *(only available in limited cases based on a child’s medical condition)*

- Children with a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis

- Academic Recovery

- Creating safe, healthy, & affirming learning environments
How will BPS support my child?

Immediate investments to best support students and families:

● **High-quality core instruction for all students**
  ○ Accelerate learning
  ○ Focus on engagement and community through relevant materials
  ○ District-wide professional learning about equitable literacy

● **Data- and research-based targeted interventions for students when they need them**
  ○ Universal intervention tools available to all schools in ELA and Math
  ○ High-quality compensatory services for students with special needs
  ○ Individualized EL plans based on ELD levels
  ○ Mentoring and tutoring
How is BPS supporting the social, emotional and physical well-being of students?

We are using a whole child approach to social emotional learning & wellness by:

- Creating safe, healthy, and affirming schools and classrooms
- Building community within classrooms and throughout the school using Transformative SEL practices (ex. welcoming activities, morning meetings, restorative practices, story telling, project based learning)
- Fostering joy through opportunities for movement and play as well as arts and physical education
- Building students’ knowledge, skills, and self-efficacy to advocate for their health and the health of others through health education
- Attending to staff well-being through adult SEL practices and staff wellness initiatives
Thank You!

For more information:
www.bostonpublicschools.org/welcomecenters

Email: reopening@bostonpublicschools.org or healthservices@bostonpublicschools.org

Visit: www.bostonpublicschools.org/backtoschool