

October 8, 2020

Dear Boston Public Schools Community:

First, I'd like to thank all of you for your patience and flexibility during these uncertain times. As we continue to evaluate public health guidance and determine what is in the best interest of our children, we strive to keep you informed so you can make the best choices for your child. We are writing to you today to ensure you have the most accurate information regarding our reopening plans and timelines.

Yesterday, Mayor Walsh and I announced that, due to an increase in the weekly citywide average COVID-19 positive test rate to 4.1%, we will be delaying the next phased return of students for in-person learning. Students in grades K0-3 who opted into the hybrid model will now return no sooner than Thursday, October 22, for Group B and Monday, October 26, for Group A. We know this is disappointing news for many of you and it is for all of us as well. We look forward to welcoming additional students back to school soon.

However, all of our schools are open to students who already returned for in-person learning. Students who were previously identified as high needs and are eligible to return to school buildings will also continue to have the option of in-person learning. Students at the McKinley, Carter, and Horace Mann day schools will have the option of in-person learning 4 days a week no sooner than Tuesday, October 13. All other families who previously opted into 4 days of in-person learning will be notified as soon as we are able to accommodate their requests, which will be no sooner than Thursday, October 22.

Our decision to continue serving students who have returned to in-person learning and delaying the next step in our safe, responsible hybrid learning schedule is consistent with our decision to prioritize our highest-needs students in this plan. Families who have opted into the hybrid learning model can always decide to switch to the fully remote learning by contacting your child's school or by completing the form available at bostonpublicschools.org/reopening.

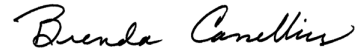
The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) [has determined](#) that it is safe for BPS to continue in-person learning for our students with the highest needs. In addition, BPS has consulted with state officials in public health and education, who agreed with the decision to keep schools open. BPS staff worked hard over the last few months to improve our facilities, repairing windows and providing fans to increase airflow, upgrading bathrooms, installing sanitation stations at entrances and exits, purchasing masks and other protective equipment, arranging furniture and posting signage for social distancing, procuring electrostatic foggers, and providing each school with a surplus of cleaning supplies and sanitation products.

In addition to strict cleaning protocols, BPS has a long-standing partnership with the BPHC Infectious Disease Bureau, which provides a strong foundation for the development and implementation of COVID-19 protocols to keep students, staff and families safe. All COVID-related safety procedures are outlined in the [BPS reopening plan](#). As a reminder, all staff and

families should complete the [BPS home health checklist](#) before leaving for school. More information about BPS reopening is always available at bostonpublicschools.org/reopening.

Please know that we are all here to support our students and families through this time of uncertainty, and we will continue to keep you updated on any developments. Thank you for your partnership.

In unity,



Dr. Brenda Cassellius
Superintendent