

November 12, 2020

Dear BPS Families,

We've made a lot of progress since my last writing and I have a few updates to share.

First, we are finalizing the plan to return students to the four schools with high needs students in special education I mentioned last week: Carter, McKinley, Horace Mann School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and Henderson. The identified students with the highest needs will begin in-person learning at those schools on Monday, November 16. We worked with the School Leaders, teachers, and our partners in public health to finalize the plans. We received [approval from the Boston Public Health Commission](#) (BPHC) to reopen these school buildings.

Next, as you may have seen, Governor Baker, Secretary Peyser, and Commissioner Riley released new guidelines on Friday afternoon that outlined the state's new approach to calculating and reporting public health data. They also challenged school districts to return as many students to in-person learning as quickly as possible. BPHC is closely reviewing the state's new approach to measuring infection rates and their impact on a school's ability to welcome students and staff into the building. We still have work to do to fully understand their new calculation and will provide an additional update next week.

In the meantime, we continue to meet with School Leaders and district and union leadership to discuss the best way to return to in-person learning. We have heard from many of you that while remote learning has greatly improved, for many students in-person learning is the best approach. We are committed to reopening school buildings as soon as we can, in collaboration with the City and our partners. We have launched a Task Force—which includes School Leader, BTU, parent, student, and district representatives—that is advising on plans for safely reopening schools. We remain in close contact with BPHC as we continue working to ensure our health and safety readiness matches all emerging science and updated guidance.

I look forward to providing future updates.

In unity,



Dr. Brenda Cassellius
Superintendent

