

April 16, 2021

Dear BPS Families,

I hope you are preparing for a restful spring recess next week and will have the opportunity to safely connect with family and loved ones. With warmer weather and additional access to vaccines, I know many of us are ready to start getting out and about more. Still, we must remain focused on following health and safety guidelines to keep ourselves and each other safe.

As we prepare to start five days a week of in-person learning on April 26, Boston Public Schools has a few updates to share with you.

First, yesterday we sent a notice to families regarding the learning model we have on record for your student: in-person or remote. If you want to make any changes to your current learning model, you can contact your school to discuss options. BPS does not yet have a timeline for students in grades 9-12 to begin five days of in-person learning. We expect to receive a decision from the State during the week of April 26 and will inform you as soon as we know.

Next, if you plan to travel during the spring recess, we ask that you [follow the new guidelines released by the Governor](#), which states that anyone “who leaves the Commonwealth is strongly encouraged to quarantine for 10 days upon return.” There are a few exceptions, including those who are fully vaccinated or receive a negative COVID-19 test upon return to the state. You can read more on [our website](#).

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education released new guidance on attendance. The summary is that students enrolled in full-time in-person learning should communicate with their school if for some reason they cannot attend in-person classes. Temporary remote learning can occur because of the need to quarantine or other special circumstances. You can read more about the attendance policy [here on our website](#).

For those of you who have students attending school in person, here are a few reminders:

- Complete a [home health checklist](#) before your child heads to school
- In most classrooms, we will follow state guidance on **3 feet** of safe distancing in classrooms and **6 feet** in other spaces, such as recess and during meals
- [Masks will be worn at all times](#) except for when eating, napping, and during mask breaks
- Review our commitment to [contact tracing](#) when there are confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 in schools
- Sign up your student to participate in [free, confidential, and easy](#) COVID-19 testing in school

- All community members can view the [weekly and cumulative reports](#) for confirmed positive cases in schools
- For a full list of safety precautions BPS has taken this year, please visit [here](#) and [here](#).
- For your specific school readiness report card, you can visit [here](#).

Thank you for your patience and collaboration throughout this school year. I hope you and your family have a wonderful April vacation.

In unity,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenda Cassellius".

Dr. Brenda Cassellius
Superintendent