



SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

September 14, 2020
6:00 PM

School Committee Meeting



NEW BEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS GOALS

- I. *High Quality Instruction:* Increase student achievement by strengthening teaching and learning.
- II. *Effective Student Support Systems:* Create an inclusive, culturally responsive learning environment.
- III. *Strong Family / Community Relationships:* Empower families and the community through collaboration.
- IV. *Organizational Team Excellence:* Cultivate and recruit a highly skilled workforce.
- V. *Public Confidence and Pride:* Implement effective strategies to raise the profile and reputation of NBPS.

Guiding Principles

Supporting student learning and holistic needs

Focus on students' holistic needs

Our Plan is developed utilizing the following guiding principles:

- **Safety and well-being**
- **Equity and access** for all students is critical as is physical and mental health AND their academics
- **Maintaining connections** between school staff and students

METRICS

Additional considerations

Other metrics to review: While average daily cases per 100,000 is the metric that determines the color coding for each community, districts / schools should also monitor whether cases are **increasing or decreasing** vs. the prior period. Monitoring **positive testing** also remains an important metric. In consultation with their local boards of health, districts should consider whether these additional metrics and underlying data may indicate other concerning trends. DESE will provide additional guidance on example scenarios regarding other metrics for districts to review.

Multiple weeks of data is necessary to understand trends: Districts should look at multiple reports to inform any changes to their learning model for the start of the school year or to make any changes during the year.

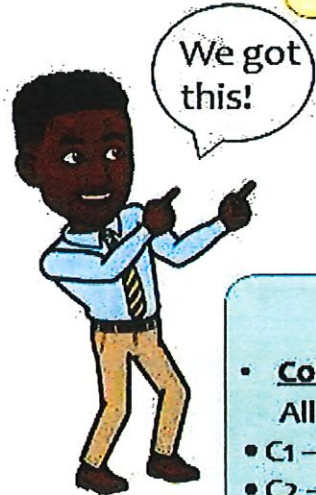
Regional schools and others that draw from multiple cities/towns: We will issue additional guidance that points you to the appropriate data to view for your context.

METRICS (multiple weeks of data)

Multiple weeks of data is necessary to understand trends: Districts should look at multiple reports to inform any changes to their learning model for the start of the school year or to make any changes during the year.



NBPS Reopening Plan Target Dates



- **All Staff** report to work for staff training and professional development.

Phase I
Aug. 31

Phase II
Sept. 16

- **Cohort A** (Selected Students) – In-Person 5 days a week.
- **Cohort B & C** – Distance Learning 5 days a week

Sept 10:

The following schools are Extended Learning Schools and begin earlier:
Hayden-McFadden, Parker and Gomes

Phase III
Oct. 19

Phase III
Oct. 5

- **Cohort C – Hybrid Begins**
All remaining students
- C1 – In-Person Monday, Tuesday
- C2 – In-Person Thursday, Friday

- **Cohort B – Hybrid Begins**
Transition Grades PreK, Kindergarten, 6th and 9th.
- B1 – In-Person Monday, Tuesday
- B2 – In-Person Thursday, Friday

Hybrid Learning combines traditional classroom experience, experiential learning objectives, and digital course delivery that uses the best option for each learning objective.



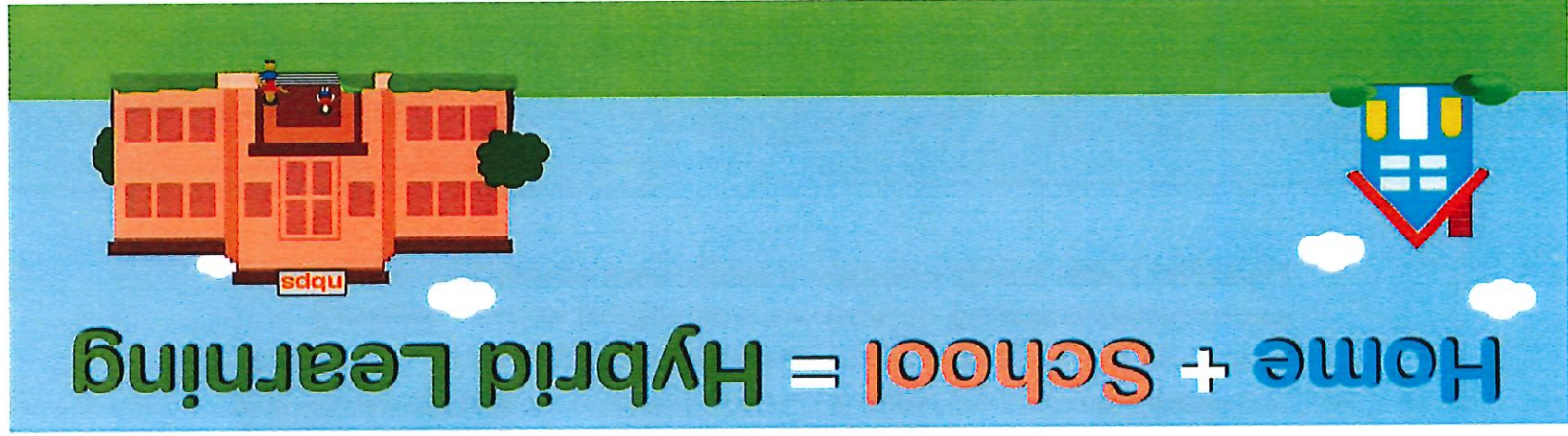
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FALL REOPENING OPTIONS



Hybrid Learning combines traditional classroom experience, experiential learning objectives, and digital course delivery that uses the best option for each learning objective.





New Bedford Public Schools Distance Learning Academy

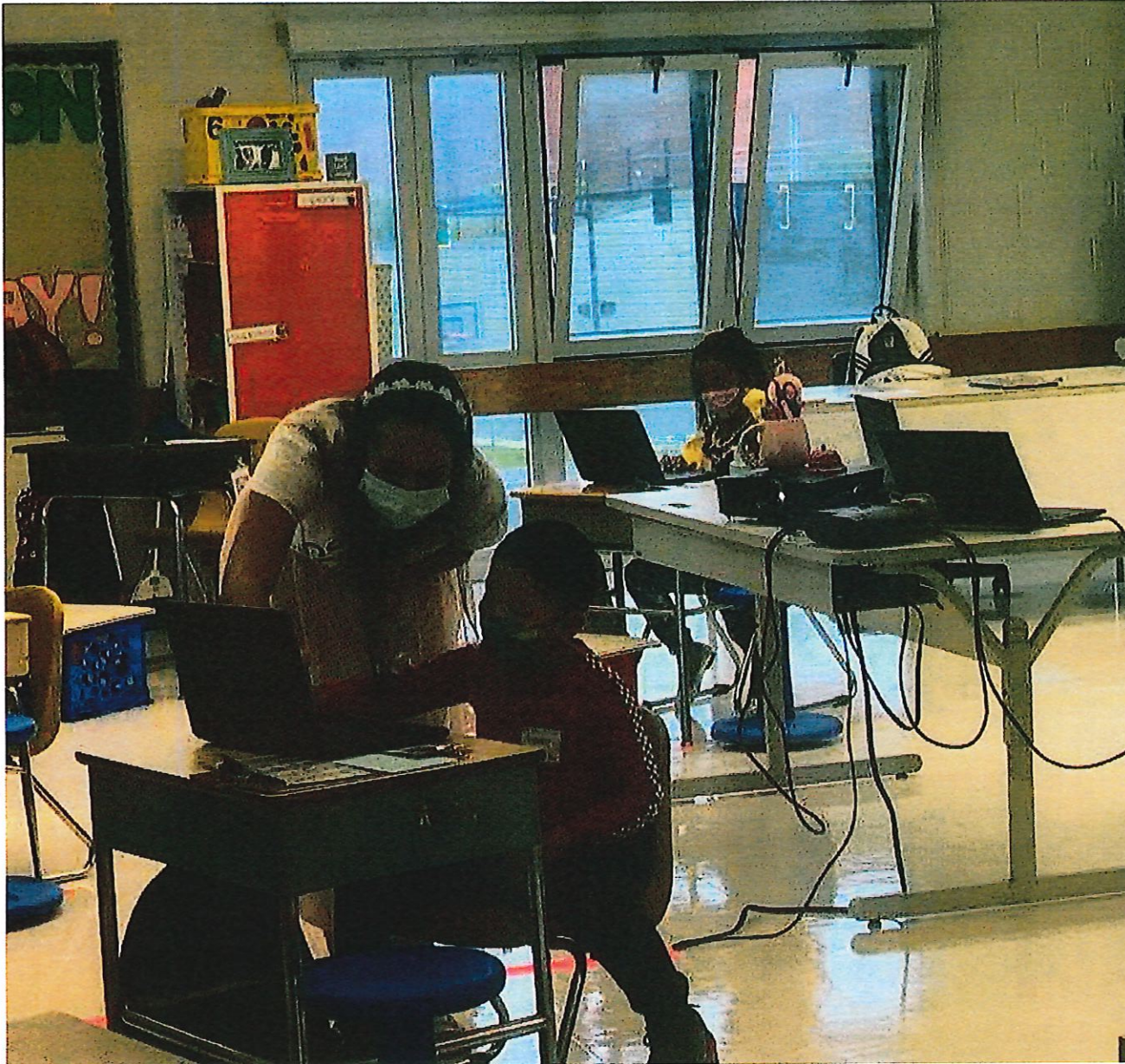
- Distance learning will occur daily during regular school hours. Students will need to be available for synchronous learning.
 - asynchronous opportunities will be made available as well
- The NBPS distance learning model includes:
 - Procedures for all students to participate in distance learning, including
 - ✓ A system for tracking attendance
 - ✓ A system for tracking participation
 - NBPS Distance Learning Academy will be aligned to state standards.
 - Academic grades for students' distance-learning academic work
 - ✓ There will be standards-based grading at the elementary levels and letter-grades at the secondary level
 - Staff will regularly communicate with students' parents and guardians, including providing interpretation and translation services to limited English proficient parents and guardians.

CLASSROOM VISITS

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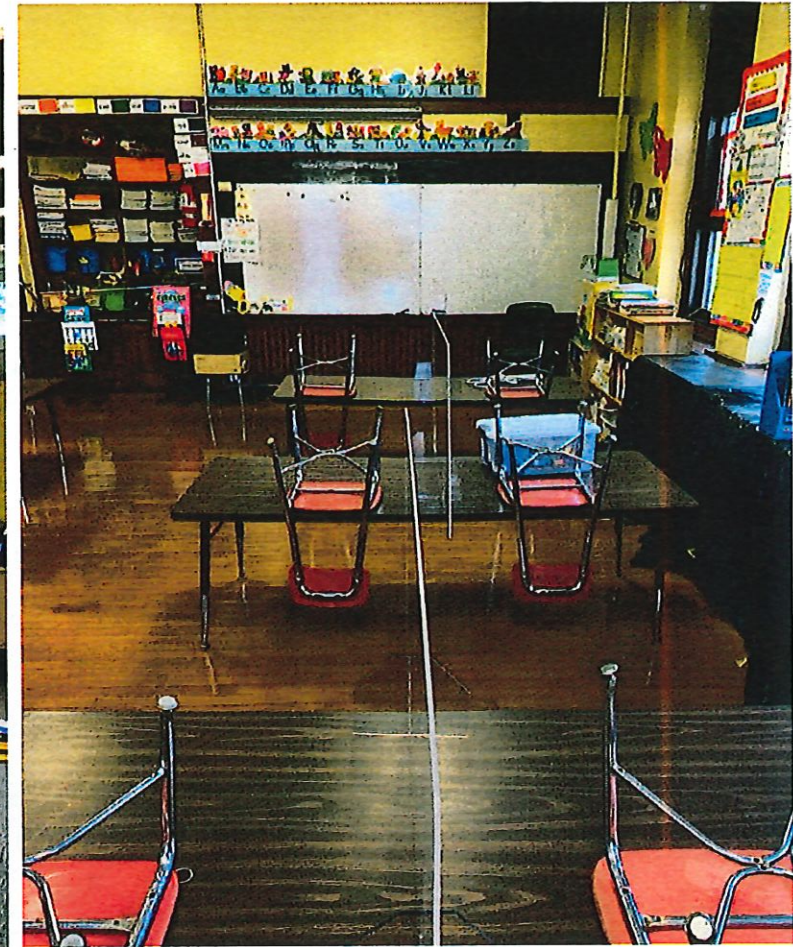
CLASSROOM VISITS



SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE: September 14, 2020

CLASS VISITS





CLASSROOM VISITS



SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE: September 14, 2020

SCHOOL VISITS



COHORT A at GOMES ES



▲ HIDE CAPTION

Matt Hill's health class at Gomes Elementary School. [Photo by E. Sirianos for NBPS]

CLASSROOM VISITS



STUDENT NUMBERS

PHASE II

COHORT A 660 (5%)			
PrK - 8	532		
9 - 12	128		
Total	660		

INITIAL STUDENT NUMBERS

DISTANCE LEARNING ACADEMY COHORT D 20% of NBPS Students

PrK - 5	1,466	
6 - 8	635	
9 - 12	463	
Total	2,564	12,954 (13,321 - April 2020)

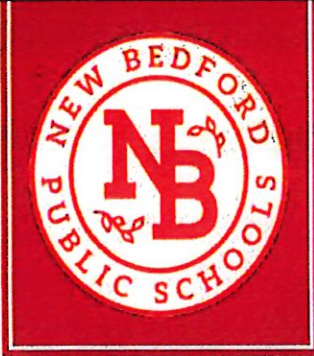
WEBSITE (INFORMATION)

← → ↻ ⓘ Not secure | www.newbedfordschools.org

☆ ★ 🏠 Not syncing

Select a School ▾ Language ▾

Login Search... 🔍



NEW BEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

455 County Street, New Bedford, MA 02740 | Phone 508-997-4511

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**Fall
Reopening
Information**

**New
Student
Registration**

**Summer
Learning**

**Update Your
Contact
Information**

**Teacher
Email
Addresses**

**Covid
FAQs**

WEBSITE INFORMATION



www.newbedfordschools.org | Not secure

- Fall Reopening Information
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[Click here for Fall Reopening Plan](#)

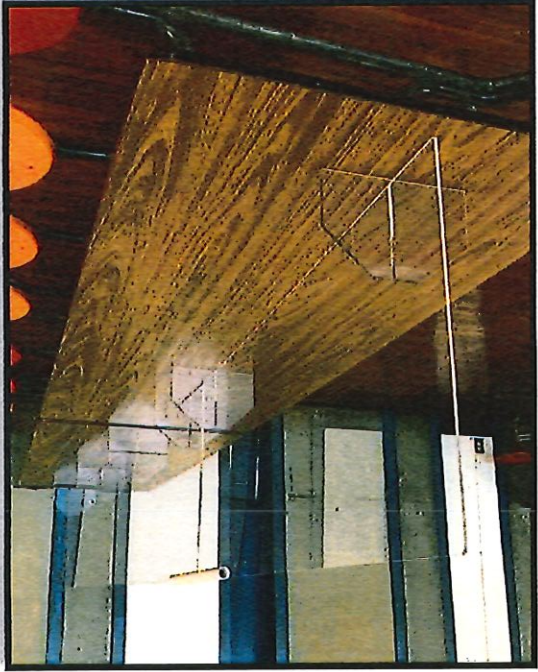
REMINDERS



REMINDERS:

- **Consistent protocols** for regular handwashing, hand sanitizing and bathroom usage
- **Face masks, clear masks**
 - Other specialized items will be available in the nurse's office at each school
 - *Students in Pre-K, Kindergarten and 1st grade will be required to wear masks IF they ride the school bus*
 - *Students in Pre-K, Kindergarten and 1st grade will be encouraged to wear masks in certain situations*
- **Limited sharing** of materials among students
- **FLU CLINICS** (Walgreens Pharmacy to offer drive-by Flu Clinics - staff, students, and families)
 - *Thursday, October 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM (NBHS and Keith MS students and staff)*

STUDENT DINING



District has sufficient food service resources and capacity to implement flexible models across each school and support distance learning students.

- *This will include:*
- Use of disposable wares, advance ordering, individually wrapped servings, possible classroom dining, 6ft distance in all cases, enhanced allergy dining standards, handwashing and disposal protocols, continued food pick up and produce days programming.

HEALTH GUIDANCE

Centers for Disease Control

CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives. Protecting People™

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

MENU >



YOUR HEALTH

How to Protect Yourself & Others

Updated July 31, 2020

Languages ▾

Print



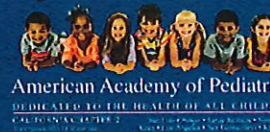
Older adults and people who have severe underlying medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing serious complications from COVID-19 illness. More information on [Are you at higher risk for serious illness.](#)



Know how it spreads

- There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).
- The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.
- The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.
 - Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
 - Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or

American Academy of Pediatrics



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School Health

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School Health

Frequently Asked Questions about Schools Re-opening (last updated 8/9/2020)

AAP-CA2 School Health Committee

Co-Chairs: Alice Kuo, MD, PhD
Casey Nagel, MD, MPH
Nava Yeganeh, MD, MPH

Related Articles

[AAP-CA2 Press Release – 8/12/2020](#)

[Local Pediatricians Answer Common Questions About Reopening Schools](#)

[The Washington Post – 8/10/2020
Remote School is Putting Kids Under Toxic Stress By Alice Kuo and Casey Nagel](#)

HEALTH PROCEDURES

Entering school and screening

Families must conduct daily symptom checks including temperature (if possible) prior to school each day.

The CDC suggests the following are potential COVID-19 symptoms (applies to all attending or working in a school):

POTENTIAL SYMPTOMS

- Fever (temperature of 100.0°F or greater) or feeling feverish New, worsening cough
- Sore throat
- Headache
- Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
- New loss of taste or smell
- Muscle aches and pains
- Nasal congestion/runny nose
- Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea/abdominal pain

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/s0914-covid-19-symptoms.html>
September 14, 2020

DAILY SYMPTOM CHECK FOR FAMILIES

Daily Home Screening for Students

Parents: Please complete this short check each morning and report your child's information to New Bedford Public Schools only if your child is sick and staying home from school.

SECTION 1: Symptoms

If your child has any of the following symptoms, that indicates a possible illness that may decrease the student's ability to learn and also put them at risk for spreading illness to others. Please check your child for these symptoms:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Temperature 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit or higher when taken by mouth
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sore throat
<input type="checkbox"/>	New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
<input type="checkbox"/>	New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever

SECTION 2: Close Contact/Potential Exposure

<input type="checkbox"/>	Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19
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HEALTH PROCEDURES



In an effort to reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure to New Bedford Public Schools, all visitors to NBPS facilities must answer the following screening questions:

Role: _____ Parent: _____ NBPS staff member: _____ Partner/Vendor (company): _____

Date: _____ Time in: _____ Time out: _____

Visitor's Name: _____

Visitor's Phone Number: _____

Person/Department visiting: _____

• Every visitor is assessed before

entering

• Each classroom will have a sign-in sign-out sheet in the event contact

tracing is required

• Poster/Bulletins of Visitor

• Screening Protocol at entrances

to each school:

Self-Declaration by Visitor		Yes	No
Have you traveled outside the state/country or been in close contact with anyone who has traveled to those areas within the last 14 days?	Have you had COVID-19?	Have you had close contact with or cared for someone diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last 14 days?	Have you experienced any cold or flu-like symptoms in the last 14 days (fever, cough, shortness of breath or other respiratory problems)?

Visitors answering yes to any of the above questions will not be permitted access New Bedford Public Schools.

VISITOR PROTOCOL

A visitor is defined as any individual that is not assigned to the specific school building or office the individual is entering.

All visitors to schools **MUST** be screened prior to accessing the building. The screener will ask a series of questions and visitors' responses will be recorded in accordance with CDC guidelines for the sole purpose of contact tracing.

The process for screening visitors will include a self-declaration answering the following questions:

- Have you had COVID-19?
- Have you traveled outside the state/country or been in close contact with anyone who has traveled to those areas within the last 14 days?
- Have you had close contact with or cared for someone diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last 14 days?
- Have you experienced any cold or flu-like symptoms in the last 14 days (fever, cough, shortness of breath or other respiratory problems)?
- In addition, visitors will be required to sign a log for contact tracing purposes including entry and departure times.

VISITOR PROTOCOL

Continued:

The following visitors may enter schools and adhere to the required entry process

- NBPS Staff
- Approved maintenance vendors (HVAC/immovable objects, copy machine vendors, etc. (by appointment only))
- Special Education Related Service Providers
- Emergency Services Mental Health Providers doing urgent evaluations
- Department of Children and Families for investigative purposes
- Medical / Fire
- Parents (Scheduled appointments only)

Health Protocols for Visitors:

All visitors must complete the following measures in order to enter New Bedford Public Schools Buildings:

- An appointment must be made prior to entrance to schools. The school office will maintain a log and share entrance requirements with visitors.

HEALTH PROCEDURES

VISITOR SCREENING

Visitors (individuals who are NOT assigned to the office, school or facility)

The CDC suggests the following are potential COVID-19 symptoms (applies to all attending or working in a school):

POTENTIAL SYMPTOMS

- Fever (temperature of 100.0°F or greater) or feeling feverish New, worsening cough
- Sore throat
- Headache
- Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
- New loss of taste or smell
- Muscle aches and pains
- Nasal congestion/runny nose
- Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea/abdominal pain

CONTACT TRACING

Two methods of capturing data for contact tracing:

1st method: Professional Software for Nurses (PSNI), electronic health records documentation

Captures below COVID concerns:

- COVID + case DPH report
- COVID + Tracing summary
- COVID staff exposure
- COVID student exposure
- COVID Student only screening
- COVID Student suspected

Nurse Leader and four staff members receive a Health Trend Alerts from the Electronic Health Record daily and anytime a student or staff is dismissed for the above reasons.

An email is sent to the above staff member every time a student or staff is sent home for above reasons.



Resources and Research

- DESE [Guidance](#)
- Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health special report on [Healthy Schools - Reopening Guidance](#)
- American Academy of Pediatrics [Guidance on Reopening Schools](#)
- CDC [Considerations for Schools](#)
- New Bedford [Health Department](#)
- Information and Feedback sessions with community partners and stakeholders

HEALTH RESOURCES



American Academy of Pediatrics: <http://aapca2.org/schoolhealth/>

CDC Guidance on reopening:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools-Decision-Tree.pdf?referringSource=articleShare>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

Academic RESOURCES:

Guidance: Strengthening Our Remote Learning Experience

Massachusetts Elementary Prerequisite Content Standards

Massachusetts Secondary Prerequisite Content Standards

Equity: <https://edtrust.org/resource/10-questions-for-equity-advocates-to-ask-about-distance-learning/>

Early Childhood: social-emotional learning (SEL) and approaches to play and learning (APL) standards. remote learning guidance

Education Trust: <https://s3-us-east-2.amazonaws.com/edtrustmain/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/06163247/10-Questions-for-Equity-Advocates-to-Ask-About-Distance-Learning-During-COVID-19-May-2020.pdf>

Resource to help boost immune system <https://www.marioninstitute.org/coffee-with-dr-hennie/>

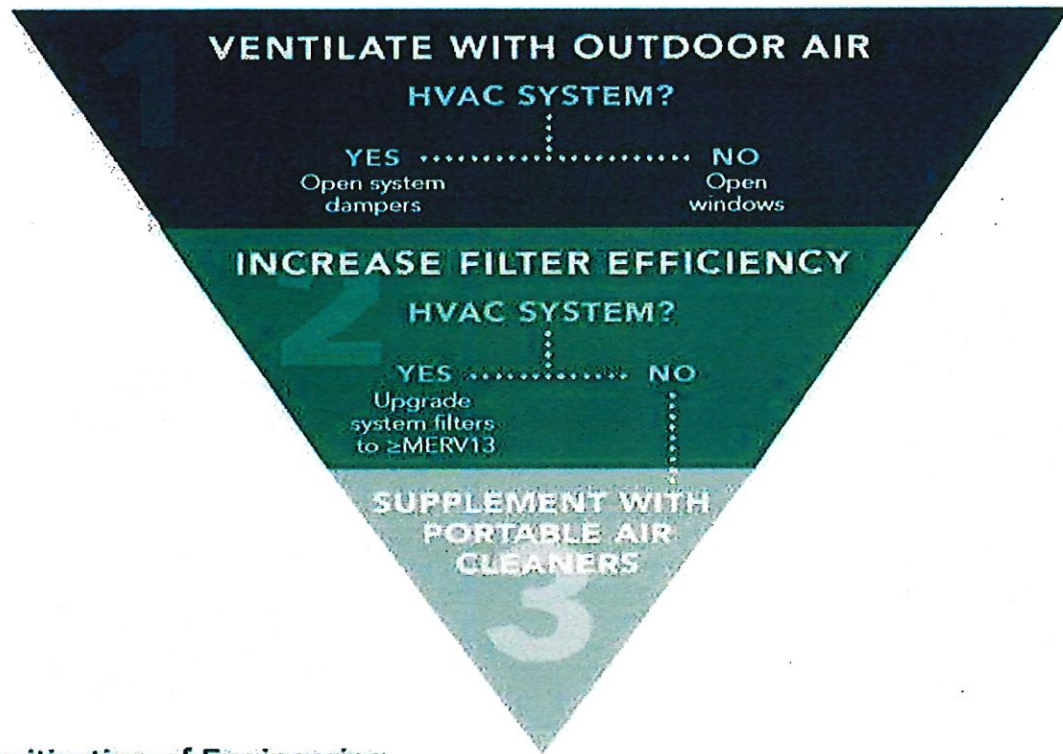


FACILITIES UPDATE

Focus on reopening facilities

- NBPS will prepare facilities and adapt operating procedures to adhere to medically-advised health and safety requirements
- Safety and well-being of students, staff, and families remain our top priority and facility management and maintenance is guided by risk mitigation and health and safety promotion
- Return to facilities will take place in a phased approach aligned with CDC/HHS, OSHA and DESE guidance and each phase will require differing levels of preparedness, response, and controls

STEPS TO IMPROVE VENTILATION AND AIR EXCHANGE



1. Ventilate Air



2. Increase Filter Efficiency

3. Supplement with Portable Air Cleaners

Prioritization of Engineering Controls to Reduce Long-Range Airborne Transmission

- **Based on BALA** report recommendations, NBPS will plan for installation of portable HEPA filters and Needlepoint Bipolar Ionization upgrades where feasible

FACILITY READINESS

Focus	Guidance
<p>Guidance for Administrators of US K-12 Schools and Child Care Programs. Training on and effectively using personal protective equipment (PPE). Cleaning and disinfecting school and community facilities to mitigate transmission.</p>	 <p>https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html</p>
<p>Requires employers to prevent and reduce transmission among employees. Guidance emphasizes social distancing, barrier or partition controls, or personal protective equipment. Return to work guidance systems are in place for those employees out of work due to potential of confirmed exposure</p>	 <p>https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/</p>
<p>DESE's Facilities and Operations Guidance provides additional details and considerations for school facilities and grounds & operational protocols: 1. Preparing spaces 2. Making systems and other space-use modifications and 3. Developing operational protocols</p>	<p>http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/2020-0722facilities-operations-guide.docx</p>

HVAC Consulting Engineers

New Bedford Public Schools has engaged with an outside vendor to assess airflow within its school buildings. The objective of the effort is to establish a complete understanding of each school building's ability to meet and maintain appropriate air exchange and airflow at a healthy level for school reopening.

Expectations of the vendor engineers will:

- Perform a site analysis of our 27 sites to review the existing HVAC and ventilation systems
- Provide a report summarizing the systems and providing recommendations for systems modifications to help accommodate improved air quality and/or air flow

STEPS TO IMPROVE VENTILATION AND AIR EXCHANGE

Ventilation and Air Exchange

- **Adjust HVAC settings:** Adjust settings to increase the flow of outdoor air

- **Open windows or doors (when appropriate and safe):** For facilities without the above HVAC capability, evaluate the options to open windows and doors when safe to do so, as well as the feasibility of increasing outdoor air intake with fan boxes in windows

- **Prevent or minimize air recirculation:** Facilities staff will evaluate how to eliminate or minimize air recirculation in their HVAC systems to the extent possible

- Measure carbon dioxide (CO₂) as a proxy for ventilation





always
be kind



be kind

THANK YOU

