



# Getting **BACK TO SCHOOL** Safely

**WHAT IN-PERSON LEARNING WILL LOOK LIKE  
IF AND WHEN SCHOOLS OPEN FOR SPRING 2021**



# The flu shot is highly recommended

- Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, the flu vaccine was required for all students.
- The flu vaccine is always important to receive to reduce the risk of getting sick with flu, reduce the severity of disease if one does get sick (including the risk of hospitalization) due to flu, as well as preventing the spread of flu to others.
- On Jan. 15th, the Department of Public Health rescinded the requirement for the flu vaccine for school age children ... However,
- The flu vaccine is still strongly encouraged during the COVID-19 pandemic. The flu vaccine will help reduce the overall impact of respiratory illness on the population, protect vulnerable populations from severe illness, and decrease the overall burden on the healthcare system.



# Hand Sanitizer

- In response to the outbreak of COVID-19, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the national Center for Disease Control recommends frequent handwashing or use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers when handwashing is not readily available.
- Hand sanitizer is considered an over-the-counter drug due to the alcohol it contains, and some families may prefer their child not use it. Those families will be able to opt out of having their student have access to alcohol-based hand sanitizer while at school. Opt-out forms will be available on the SPS website.

# For students who are administered medications in schools, the following guidelines will be in place

- Nurses will work with parents/guardians and the student's doctor to identify ways that medications can be taken at home.
- Students who require medication administration while at school, will remain in their classrooms until a nurse comes to get them.
- The student will be taken to the nursing office, where there will be a limit of one student at a time.



# Bringing medications to school

- Families make an appointment with the school nurse to bring their medications in, so that delivery times may be staggered to accommodate social distancing.
- If approved by a nurse, a student can self-administer and carry their medications with them. Those students will store their medication in their personal belongings.
- Nebulizer treatments will be done in a room with quality ventilation, by a nurse wearing an N95 mask and strict disinfecting procedures will take place after each treatment. In addition, nurses will work with a student's doctor to determine if there is a safe and suitable alternative delivery system for that treatment.

# Face Coverings

- Students in grades 2-12 will be required to wear a face covering in school and on school grounds unless they have a medical exemption or are taking a mask break.
- Students will be encouraged to practice wearing face coverings two weeks prior to starting hybrid, or in other words they will be asked to start wearing face coverings during remote learning.
- Students will also be asked to practice mask breaks, which includes taking face coverings off and putting them back on.

# Entering and Exiting School

## Entering and Exiting

- Students must always remain at least six feet apart.
- Cones or other markers will be used to identify six-foot distances outdoors.
- Students will utilize multiple entrances.
- Staff will monitor student use of masks, social distancing and hallway activity.



# Classrooms

In classrooms, there will be:

- Student cohorts and assigned seating
- Hand hygiene stations
- Social distancing
- Mask breaks
- Cleaning/Disinfecting



# Meals

Meals will be distributed to each student one at a time while maintaining social distancing.

## Students will:

- Use hand sanitizer
- Pickup their meal, paper towel, and sanitizing wipes
- Return to their desk
- Use a sanitizing wipe on their hands
- Wipe down their desk with the sanitizing wipe
- Place a paper towel on their desk
- Wait until all others have obtained their meal and returned to their seat
- Remove their mask and place the mask on the paper towel
- Eat and do not share food
- Put their mask back on
- Dispose of their trash one at a time

# Using the Bathroom

- Students will not be allowed to use the bathroom during transition times
- Bathrooms will be assigned by classroom location and each school will have a plan for what classes have access to a particular bathroom at a particular time
  - For larger bathrooms, multiple students can be allowed in the bathroom at the same time if they are from the same class/cohort
- Schools will use a bathroom sign-out system to reduce the number of students in bathrooms at one time and access to the bathroom will be monitored by a staff member
  - Staff will ensure that students use their own writing instruments for the sign-out log
- Paper towels will be provided in every bathroom and air dryers will be disabled
- Students will be asked to use hand sanitizer before and after using the bathroom

# Transitions

- Transitions will be kept to a minimum
- Clear movement patterns will be followed to avoid crowding, maintain cohorts, and minimize unnecessary person-to-person interactions
- There will be one-way movement patterns for hallways and cafeterias
- Arrows will show movement patterns
- Class transitions will be staggered



# Medical Waiting Room

The medical waiting room is a separate space from the nurse's office to care for a student who:

- Is showing COVID-19 symptoms
- Who has learned about a positive test result while at school





- Make sure your child understands and follows the Face Covering policy
- Keep your child home if they are sick
- Families should know that:
  - Students leaving school sick must be picked up. They cannot go on the bus. Parents must make an appointment to come into the school: social distancing will be mandatory

**Families must help  
keep kids safe**

