



# OXFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*“Sailing Toward Success”*

October 1, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and OXPS Staff,

At Monday night’s School Committee meeting, I presented the health metrics data and other considerations (see attachment) for determining whether this district should move from its current model of remote learning to hybrid learning on Monday, October 5, 2020. As you will recall, our district’s 20-21 reopening plan approved by the School Committee was designed to be a deliberate “phased-in” re-entry approach.

As part of the metrics for determining when school districts might move from one learning model to another, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s (MA DESE) guidance for districts includes reviewing the Massachusetts Department of Public Health’s (MA DPH) weekly metrics ratings for towns/cities for at least three weeks as well as other data. Further, to assist districts in making this determination, MA DESE has linked the MA DPH color-coded metric rating system for communities to expectations for learning models (see same attachment).

Based on a review of the weekly MA DPH data for the last four weeks (beginning with the September 2<sup>nd</sup> report), as well as other data, and my review yesterday of the most recent September 30<sup>th</sup> MA DPH report, Oxford continues to be ranked in the “Unshaded” or “Green” metric category. This ranking supports the move at this juncture from remote learning to hybrid learning.

**Thus, on Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, the district will move into hybrid learning for all students who elected it. If you/your child elected full remote learning, that model will continue and there will be no change/interruption.**

As a helpful reminder, I am providing the following illustration of our district’s hybrid learning model which we will begin this Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>:

- **Cohort A** hybrid students **attend in-person learning Monday – Thursday** while **Cohort B** hybrid students **participate remotely**. Both cohorts follow a regular school day time schedule.
- On **Fridays, hybrid students will receive instruction remotely** and will not be in school for in-person learning.

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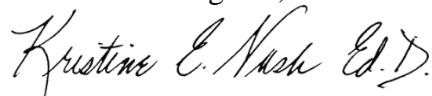
- Also, for **ALL students, hybrid and full remote, Fridays will be a shortened teacher instructional day** so that our staff can have a longer block of time to plan for both schemas of hybrid learning. However, on Fridays, students will be expected to work independently on teacher assigned work for the remainder of that school day. (Principals will be providing you with the exact time schedule within the next few days or at the beginning of next week.)
- **Cohort A and Cohort B will flip the following week** with Cohort B hybrid students attending in-person learning while Cohort A students will be participating remotely. (Cohort B students will return for in-person learning on Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> as Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup> is a holiday)
- Again, nothing will change for our students in full remote learning except for Friday being a shorter day of direct teacher instruction.

We hope that as our district moves into the hybrid learning model described above, where approximately half of our students will be attending in-person learning at one time, we will be able to maintain this model with some consistency. Unfortunately, none of us are able to predict with any degree of certainty, the path that the COVID-19 virus will take in our community and/or in the state.

I can assure you that we will continue with monitoring the metrics from the MA DPH as well as other longitudinal data to make future decisions about the health and safety of students and staff. When and if a school or the district needs to shift back into remote learning, I will let you know as soon as possible. However, please know that when the health and safety of students and staff are involved, any decision could happen quickly. To that end, as a proactive communication measure, by the end of next week, I will be sending out information on our response protocols and form letters for when a staff member or student tests positive for COVID-19. While we hope that we will never have to communicate this information and implement these protocols, we want to be prepared as a district to be able to respond quickly, efficiently, and effectively.

If you have any general questions about the content of this message, please feel free to contact me or the administrator in your child's/children's building(s). Stay safe and well!

With kindest regards,



Kristine E. Nash, Ed.D.  
Interim Superintendent of Schools

Attachment