



OXFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

“Sailing Toward Success”

September 14, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we prepare for the opening of school this year, I want to provide you with some **additional health and safety information**. The attachment I have included contains specific information on the following:

- COVID-19 symptoms list
- Process that the District will follow if a student or staff member tests positive
- Process if a student or staff member comes in close contact with an individual who tests positive
- Procedures and timeline for when to return to school after COVID-19
- Procedure for how a school will respond if a student demonstrates any COVID-19 symptoms
- Quick reference sheet

Of particular emphasis, I would ask you to read the definition of a “close contact” which has been updated to *within six (6) feet of an individual for at least fifteen (15) minutes while the person was infectious*.

The District’s August **Blueprint Re-Entry Plan** detailed the health and safety changes that the District has incorporated into its reopening plans. As a reminder, the following are some of these key safety and health changes:

1. Requiring all PreK-12 students and adults to wear masks
2. Physical distancing of six (6) feet in classrooms
3. Ensuring all building HVAC systems are working at optimum efficiency for fresh air exchange
4. Assigning student seating
5. Hiring bus monitors and installing touchless hand sanitizing dispensers on busses
6. Hiring school-based health and safety monitors
7. Instituting additional COVID-19 cleaning and sanitizing protocols
8. Hiring additional day custodial support
9. Adding touchless hand sanitizing dispensers in all classrooms, entry points and other strategic areas
10. Changing arrival and dismissal procedures
11. Keeping students in cohorts as much as possible
12. Minimizing student movement in the building
13. Serving lunch in classrooms
14. Posting signage on mitigation protocols throughout buildings
15. Changing elementary recess protocols
16. Discontinuing locker use
17. Adding new procedures for identified classes (i.e., PE, chorus, theatre)
18. Instituting a hybrid model with cohort groups to provide six (6) feet of distance between student desks

4 MAPLE ROAD, OXFORD, MA 01540 · (508) 987-6050 · FAX (508) 987-6054 · TDD LINE (508) 987-6096

The Oxford Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, homelessness, pregnancy, pregnancy-related conditions, or limited English proficiency.

In addition to these safety and health measures, custodians will be disinfecting high touch areas several times per day. However, one of the ways to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 is for individuals to stay home when feeling ill and especially if they are experiencing any of the COVID-19 symptoms listed in the accompanying attachment. As parents and guardians, we ask that you work with us to check the wellbeing of your child on a daily basis before he/she heads off to school. If your child is experiencing any of the symptoms on the enclosed list, please keep your child home. While one symptom alone such as a headache may not raise the alarm bell, a few of them might. You should also be receiving messages from building principals prior to school opening that highlight some of specifics as to what these safety and health procedures will look like in their buildings.

Finally, as a reminder, Cohort A students will report to school on September 16th with Cohort B students reporting on September 17th. Students who have elected to start the year in the remote learning model will start on September 16th. Friday, September 18th, is a staff professional development day with no school for all students. Finally, on Monday, September 21st, the entire district will switch to the remote learning model at least through the end of September at which time we will assess the medical and other data and make a decision to stay in remote or move to hybrid.

Stay safe and healthy!

With warmest regards,



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

Attachment