



2021-2022 REOPENING UPDATE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Once again the reopening of schools comes with challenges. Guidance provided from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education provides a level of flexibility in order to be responsive to needs of districts and individual schools across the Commonwealth. As the district works to reopen our schools we will make every attempt to communicate as quickly and as carefully as we can. This FAQ document has been developed in anticipation of questions that may arise as we reopen. We ask for your patience as we navigate the school year ahead. The information incorporated within this *Frequently Asked Questions* document will be updated periodically throughout the school year.

1. What are you doing about air quality in the schools?

- All Hingham Public School buildings will be checked for air quality on a quarterly basis, similar to last year. The district has contracted with Envirotest Lab, Inc. of Dedham to conduct these air quality reports. Once the first air quality analysis is done the results will be shared with the Hingham School Committee and will be posted to the district's website. Further, portable air filtration units will be installed in classrooms across the district where air filtration has been a challenge due to the age of facilities.

2. Are you going to be using tents to increase outdoor space?

- We are currently research companies for the renting/purchase of tents to increase outdoor learning space.

3. Will there be changes to school operations once school gets going?

- While we don't anticipate any major changes, the district is using the opening days of school to pressure test our reopening plans and space needs. Based on feedback from our building principals we anticipate making needed adjustments.

4. What will the spacing be at lunch?

- Every lunchroom across the district has a different configuration. Each building will work within the limits of its lunchroom and academic schedule to provide the maximum amount of spacing possible during lunch. Although the CDC guidelines indicate 6 feet of distance for lunches, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education guidance provides flexibility for each school due to the configuration and space allocations in schools across Massachusetts. Each school will be observing and analyzing lunch conditions and will make appropriate adjustments to increase space over time. This may include providing options for students to eat outside or other areas within the school where students can be supervised.

5. What are the testing models you will be using this year?

- As part of the district's mitigation efforts to ensure a safe and healthy school year for everyone, in-school testing will be offered to all students and staff. Hingham Public Schools will be offering the following testing protocols during the 2021-2022 academic year:
 - i. **Symptomatic Testing:** This protocol will be used for students and staff who develop symptoms while at school. It is a rapid test performed by qualified health professionals from CIC¹.
 - 1. *This testing model will be used for all grades PK-12 (and PG)*
 - ii. **Test and Stay (Close contact testing):** This protocol will be used to test unvaccinated asymptomatic individuals who have been identified as close contacts. It is designed to allow close contacts to stay in school vs. quarantining at home and missing school. It is a daily rapid test performed for at least five days following exposure by qualified health professionals from CIC.
 - 1. *This testing model will be used for all grades PK-12 (and PG)*
 - iii. **Routine (Weekly) COVID Pooled Testing:** This protocol will be used for all individuals who opt-in to participate in the weekly COVID testing program. Testing will be conducted one time per week.
 - 1. *This testing model will be used for grades PK-6*

6. What will physical education look like this year?

- The district will be working with teachers in the physical education department to assess spaces for physical education instruction and make appropriate adjustments to address concerns about close student proximity.

The information incorporated within this *Frequently Asked Questions* document will be updated periodically throughout the school year. Have a question that wasn't answered?

Please let us know at hpscommunications@hinghamschools.org and we'll work to include it in the next FAQ update!

¹ "CIC Health offers comprehensive COVID-19 testing services that are accessible, fast, and easy. The health tech company has operated dozens of public testing sites and has provided testing services to more than 600 schools and 450 organizations. CIC Health also ran four mass vaccination sites — including Gillette Stadium and Fenway Park — and pop-up sites in more than 20 communities in Massachusetts. Headquartered in Cambridge, Mass., the company has facilitated more than 2 million PCR tests and over 1.2 million vaccine doses." (CIC Health, retrieved from <https://www.cic-health.com/#services>, September 2021)