



HINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Good afternoon HPS families,

As promised in a previous communication, please find the attached [HPS School Reopening Family Survey](#). The information that you provide will help guide the work of the Recovery Response Advisory Committee in the development of the district's reopening plan. We respectfully request that you complete the survey for **each school-aged child** in your family by **Tuesday, July 21st**. Thank you in advance for your feedback.

Please note the following when completing the survey:

- Per DESE guidance, the HPS Recovery Response Advisory Committee is simultaneously planning for three potential fall reopening scenarios:--in-person instruction (with appropriate health and safety modifications), hybrid instruction, and fully remote learning. While maximizing capacity for in-person instruction with appropriate health and safety modifications is our guiding principle, we recognize that our district must prepare to seamlessly transition between in-person, hybrid and remote learning scenarios as health data and local conditions warrant. We are also actively planning accommodations for those students in high risk groups for whom in person instruction may prove challenging.
- In the initial DESE school reopening guidance, requirements for in-person and hybrid instruction include a minimum of 3-6 feet of physical distancing, required masks for students in Grades 2-12, masks strongly recommended for K-1, frequent hand-washing, and rigorous cleaning protocols. Please note that mask breaks will be regularly scheduled as part of the school day.
- Recognizing that a sudden regional spike in COVID cases and/or a more localized outbreak within a school may necessitate a period of quarantine or school closure for some or all HPS students, the district is actively planning for

significantly enhanced remote learning. According to recent DESE guidance, improved remote learning plans should include the daily recording of student attendance, more rigorous grading practices, and defined schedules for synchronous instruction. While the details of remote instruction are still in process, we recognize that daily attendance-taking, robust grading practices, and defined schedules are key components of a successful remote learning plan. Also note that the district has purchased laptops for every educator to facilitate transitions between in-person, hybrid and remote learning.

- DESE has yet to issue comprehensive protocols with regard to transportation, but we do anticipate that all students will be required to wear masks and maintain a minimum of 3-6 feet of physical distance while riding on school buses.
- The district's preliminary reopening plan summary will be completed and submitted to DESE on or before July 31st, with the comprehensive final plan due to DESE on August 10th. DESE has promised additional guidance in the coming weeks on lingering topics such as transportation and athletics, which will allow for increased specificity to our preliminary plan.
- We do anticipate administering a second family survey after the final reopening plan has been published. That survey will include more specificity around learning models, schedules, and transportation.

Thank you for your continued support of Hingham Public Schools. Your input is greatly appreciated and will be an important part of our planning process.

Until next time,

Paul Austin, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Hingham Public Schools