



FAQs: HPS Facilities

How are classrooms set-up?

Classrooms have been set up with desks starting at six feet from the front of the room and the Smartboard to the first student. The desks are set at three foot distancing from each desk. Teachers will assign each cohort to a desk to ensure 6' space between students. The Teacher's desk has been moved to a smartboard wall facing students. Desks are spaced six feet from common areas in a room such as the entry door way, bathroom door or sink in a room.

Rugs have been removed from classrooms, with the exception of rooms that occupy students with hearing impairments.

Where will hand sanitizing dispensers be placed?

Hand hygiene is an important practice to reduce the spread of the virus. Hand sanitizing dispensers are installed at every exit door of all the buildings. They are also located outside every elevator or wheelchair lift, on all levels of the building. For any classroom that does not have a sink, hand sanitizer dispensers will be provided. Bottles of hand sanitizer are available to keep in classrooms, as well. Due to new fire code, table top pump style dispensers are placed in any area with carpeting.

Should I have my own hand sanitizer?

Students should have a small bottle of alcohol hand sanitizer in their back-packs to clean hands at any time. Hand sanitizer should contain a minimum of 60% alcohol. No aerosol or pump sprays are permitted.

What signage will be posted to remind students and staff about safety protocols?

HPS is using CDC signage in its buildings consistent with signage posted in other Town of Hingham buildings. "Masks are Required" signs are posted on all entrance doors. "Washing Hands" signs are posted at all sinks. Social distancing reminder signs are in all work rooms and break rooms. Floor decals that are 6' apart are installed on the floors of all schools. Directional arrows are on the hallway floors. Lanes are marked where appropriate.

Signage is also located on the school buses to remind students to wear masks, use hand sanitizer and socially distance.

Can we use water bubblers or hydration stations?

Contactless hydration stations can be used to refill water bottles. However, all water bubblers have been shut off.

Can I bring a water bottle to school?

Students and staff may bring a clean water bottle each day. Reusable bottles are preferred. Water bottles with a "flip top" or a "pop-up top" are preferred rather than a "screw on" lid.

Please label your water bottle with your name. Water bottles found without a name will be disposed of. Staff will remind students to take home water bottles and wash them each day and refill at home as much as possible.

Each building will schedule water and mask breaks according to the schedule appropriate for the grade level.

Are there changes to the bathrooms?

All bathrooms have been evaluated and provide appropriate safety. Paper towels are available to dry hands instead of air dryers. If the Boys bathroom has more than one stall, the urinals have been turned off, bagged, and a sign posted out of order. Each bathroom will have cleaning charts installed on the door which state the last time they were cleaned and sanitized and by whom.

What Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is available in Hingham Public Schools?

The district began purchasing supplies in early July to ensure that Hingham had adequate supplies or PPE to get started in school and avoid back orders. The initial purchasing was based on DESE guidance provided in Mid June. All of this purchasing is incremental to supplies the District purchased and had on hand in the last quarter of School year 2020.

- 5,252 boxes of disposable face masks. This amounts to 262,600 face masks.
- 700+ N95 and KN95 Masks
- 12 cases of Safety goggles (36 per case) which equals 432 pairs of safety goggles
- 500 "see through" fabric face masks
- 500 safety face shields
- 10 cases of disposable safety gowns (200 per case) = 2,000 gowns
- 1,734 boxes of gloves in various sizes
- 6 Non Contact Thermometers
- 11 Counter Shields
- 325 Cases of Sanitation wipes
- 2,200 Arrow decals for the High School and Middle School
- 60 Social Distancing Decals
- 22 germ barrier stands for school offices
- 200 16oz Pump Hand Sanitizer
- 200 germ barriers
- 400 sanitizer dispensers
- 120 Gallons of hand sanitizer

Please note that this list is constantly growing and changing and that supplies will be replenished as needed.

What PPE is provided for teachers?

HPS has masks available for anyone who needs one during the school day. All grade level teachers will be provided with cloth masks and a box of disposable masks in their classroom with replenishments available as needed. If the teacher has a student with any hearing or verbal needs, clear masks will be provided. Teachers K-1 will have the option of using one of the two styles of clear masks.

As of October 26, 2020

In addition, brown paper bags are supplied for mask breaks. Students will store their masks in the brown paper bag during breaks. Germ barriers are available for any teacher who requests one for their room.

Each teaching or administrative staff member will be given a bottle of diluted disinfectant as well as paper towels. The bottle will be properly labeled identifying the product it contains. Staff members are encouraged to use these in their spaces to supplement cleaning provided by the custodial staff, particularly in high-touch areas. The disinfectant will be replenished as requested by the teacher. Students will also be encouraged to clean their own work space as well.

PPE supplies are available in each building. Staff can order supplies from the Custodial staff via School Dude, email or a phone call using the process as classroom supplies.

What PPE is provided to Special Education staff?

All Special Education staff will be assigned one of each style mask including a Face Shield (clear plastic from nose to chin), fabric with clear plastic patch, and fabric masks. They will also be provided with two styles of clear germ barriers - tabletop cross style and single desktop style. If the Special Education teacher finds he/she does not like a style or would like more of a style, they will be provided. We want to evaluate what works best for each student and teacher and will be ready to provide what is needed.

Specific PPE supplies for Special Education are available in each building from the School Nurse.

What PPE is provided to nurses?

All nurses have been provided gowns, KN95 masks, N95 Masks, Goggles, and Face Shields for personal protection. Their offices will have large plastic dividing partitions placed appropriately as requested by the nurse. Nurse offices will be fully supplied with hand sanitizer and cleaning sanitizer. They will also have supplies of brown bags for storing personal face masks. The nursing staff participated in the planning and preparation for their materials and rooms.

In addition to the nurse's office, there will be a medical waiting room with clear plastic curtains to isolate any students that may be waiting for a parental pick-up. This space will have visual monitoring by support personnel to ensure students are safe and managed until their ride arrives.

Are there the mask rules?

Hingham Public Schools requires everyone to wear a mask that meets [CDC guidelines](#).

Please refer to Mask and Face Covering FAQs and the [HPS Face Mask Policy](#).

What are the protocols for mid-day cleaning?

The custodial staff is working in conjunction with the teachers and administrators to support our students who are learning in-person all day. Schedules for Special Education rooms are coordinated with the custodial staff so proper disinfecting can take place between groups.

Custodial Staff will sanitize spaces in buildings where students will learn in the afternoon. During this time, the morning and mid-shift custodians will sweep and empty trash in regular classrooms. Evening custodians will sanitize classrooms, and clean and sanitize bathrooms. He/She will also wash halls and high touch areas.

What are the protocols for daily cleaning?

In accordance with CDC guidance, normal routine cleaning with soap and water removes germs and dirt from surfaces which lowers the risk of spreading COVID-19 infection. All custodians will follow these guidelines and protect themselves by wearing masks and gloves during daily cleaning.

During daily cleaning, custodians will use all-purpose cleaners as they typically do when a virus is not present. Each custodial closet will have a chart showing which product is suitable for which surfaces and how to use the product. Floors in all common areas will be washed daily. Classroom floors will be washed a minimum of twice per week and more frequently if required.

High touch areas, such as door knobs, railings, light and water fixtures, elevator buttons, counters, chair arms, phones, etc. will be sprayed using a disinfectant. The surface will be left to air dry, unless it has to be used immediately, in which case it will be wiped down.

Soft and porous materials including rugs and couches, along with any other items that are difficult to clean and disinfect (for example, couches, stuffed chairs, pillows or sensory tables) will be removed. Wherever possible, loose items used and shared by young students who are prone to putting items in their mouth will be removed from the classroom. Disinfectants will not be applied on items that children might put in their mouths.