



HINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

220 Central Street • Hingham, Massachusetts 02043

781-741-1500 VOICE • 781-749-7457 FAX

www.hinghamschools.com

November 24, 2020

Dear HPS Community,

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, I continue to be grateful for the amazing support that the Hingham Public Schools have received during these most challenging times. I am especially grateful for the incredible efforts of our educators, administrators, students, support staff, town officials, students and families for their collaborative work to keep our schools open.

As stated in previous communications, our district is committed to providing opportunities for in-person learning, and we appreciate the ongoing community support in making this possible. In order to maintain or advance these goals related to in-person learning, it is imperative that families continue to exercise caution to limit the spread of COVID in our community. As we approach the holiday season, this vigilance will be ever more important.

Please note that at this time, the Commonwealth strongly recommends that families limit gatherings and celebrations to members of a single household and urges all residents to avoid out-of-state travel, including to COVID-19 lower-risk states. While we understand the hardship that this poses, we appreciate that families are willing to make this sacrifice to protect our community and to maintain educational continuity for our children.

In the event that a family decides to travel out of state, upon returning, families must:

- complete the attached [Massachusetts Travel Form](#), required by the Commonwealth, unless you are returning from a low-risk state. Please note that the [designation of low risk states](#) changes weekly, but as of this writing includes VT and HI.
- follow the Governor's order to produce a negative COVID-19 test result (administered up to 72-hours prior to your return to Massachusetts) unless you are returning from a low-risk state.
- If students and families choose not to test, individuals must follow the quarantine rules established by the Massachusetts Department of Health. After the quarantine period, families must complete and return the [Self-Certification of No Symptoms Form](#) for each student, prior to returning to school. Please see the attached [policy and submission directions](#) for more details.

Our HPS COVID response team continues to work closely with our town physician, nurse coordinator and Susan Sarni, the Executive Director of the Hingham Board of Health, to monitor data and trends and provide timely updates. The school and town data are updated weekly on the [HPS reopening](#) page and Hingham [Board of Health website](#) respectively. We are hopeful that our recommendations and protocols will continue to foster a healthy and safe learning environment for students and staff.

I wish you and your family peace and good health this holiday season.

Respectfully,

Paul Austin, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Hingham Public Schools