

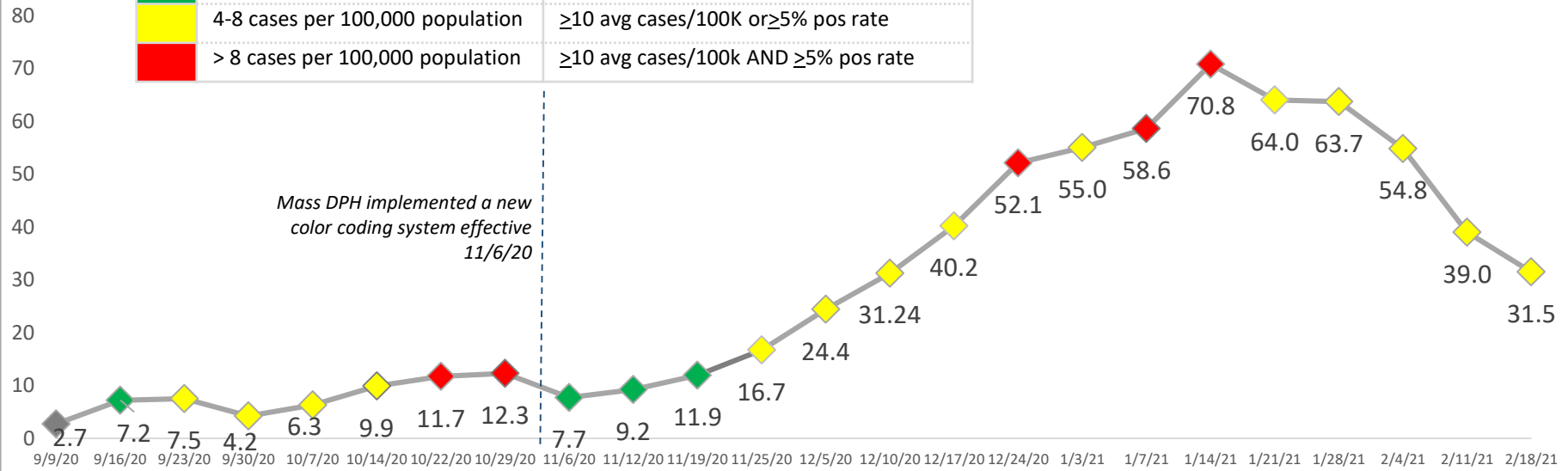


# **Superintendent's Update**

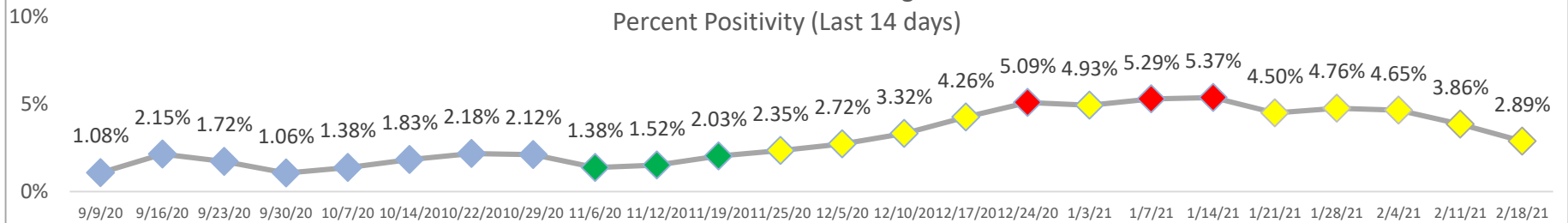
**February 22, 2021 School Committee Meeting**

# Town of Hingham - COVID-19 Weekly Public Health Report

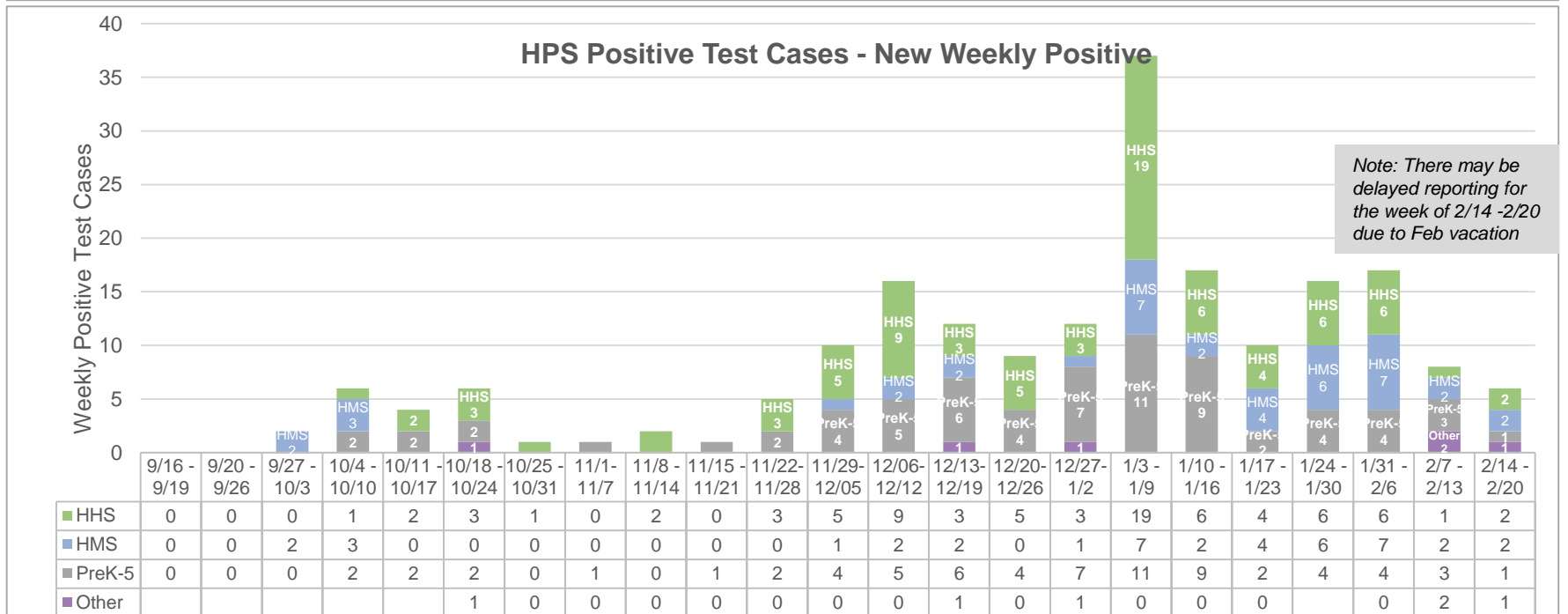
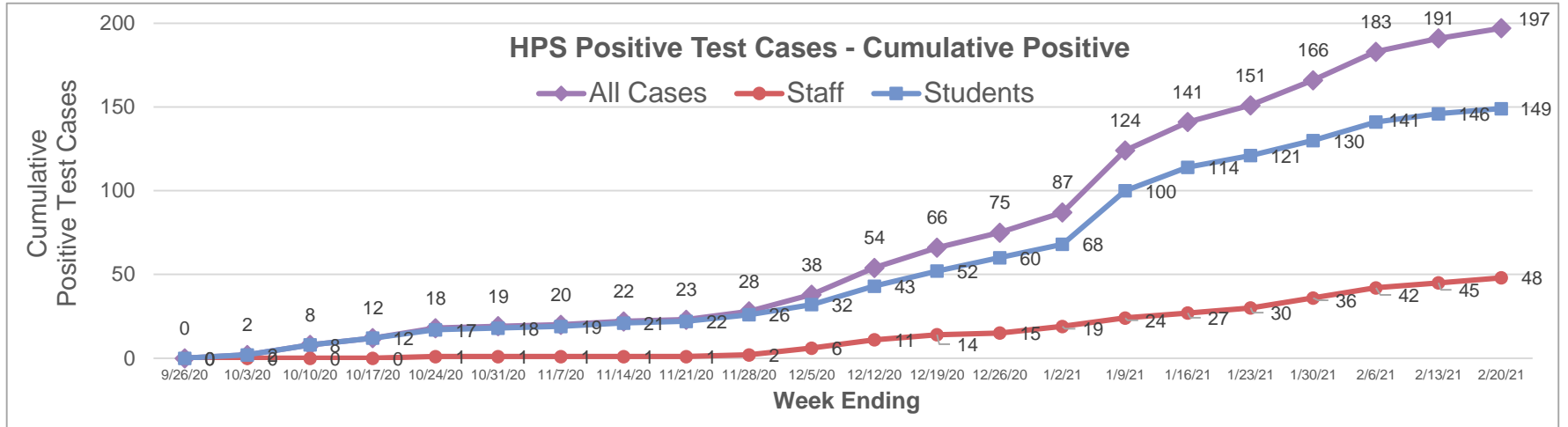
Massachusetts DPH – Town of Hingham Results	
Average Daily Case Rate Per 100,000 Population (last 14 days)	
Coding – Prior to 11/6/2020	Revised Coding – effective 11/6/20 Population 10K-50K
<5 cases in last 14 days	≤10 total cases
<4 cases per 100,000 population	<10 avg cases/100K AND >10 total cases
4-8 cases per 100,000 population	≥10 avg cases/100K or ≥5% pos rate
> 8 cases per 100,000 population	≥10 avg cases/100k AND ≥5% pos rate



Massachusetts DPH – Town of Hingham Results  
Percent Positivity (Last 14 days)

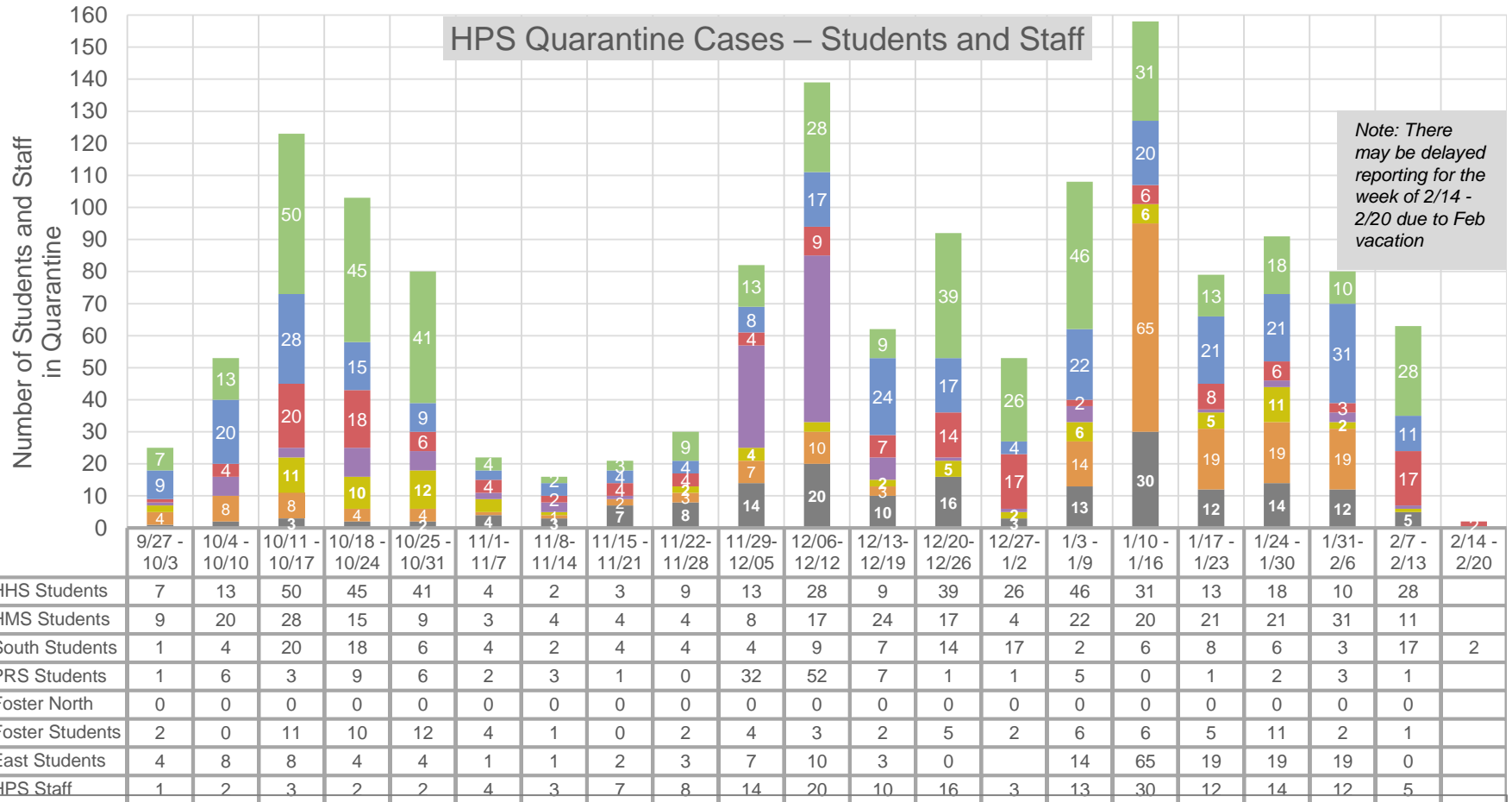


# Hingham Schools - Weekly and Cumulative Positive Test Cases



Graph only reflects positive test cases among students and staff that are attending in-person learning. Does not include any individual that is fully remote. Data is based on self-reporting from the impacted individuals to the school nurse. Weekly numbers will be updated as additional cases are reported.

# Hingham Schools – Weekly Quarantine Report



## Required Health Protocols

- Daily Checklist:** All parents/guardians must pre-screen their children each day before sending them to school. See the [COVID-19 Daily Checklist](#).
- Mask Requirements:** A face covering that complies with CDC guidance and covers the nose and mouth must be worn at all times and by all individuals in all public areas of school buildings, on school grounds and on school transportation. [See the full face mask policy.](#)
- Physical Distancing:** All students and staff will remain 6-feet distance from each other during school. [See more.](#)
- Returning to School:** Follow the guidelines for returning to school after COVID-19-like symptoms or a positive test. [See more.](#)

# Hingham Schools – COVID-19 Staff Testing

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Test Date	Number of Negative Tests	% Negative Tests	Number of Positive Tests	% Positive Tests
1/14/2021	93	100%	0	0%
1/19/2021	93	100%	0	0%
1/21/2021	121	100%	0	0%
1/26/2021	105	99.06%	1	0.94%
1/28/2021	99	100%	0	0%
2/4/2021	192	100%	0	0%
2/11/2021	206	100%	0	0%
Total Tests	909	99.89%	1	0.11%

*Note: There was no testing during the week of 2/14 -2/20 due to February vacation.*

# What does the CDC say about COVID-19 & Children?

- While fewer children than adults have had COVID-19 in the United States, the number of school-aged children with COVID-19 has been increasing.
- Children and adolescents can be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, can get sick with COVID-19, and can spread the virus to others.
- Most children and adolescents with the virus that causes COVID-19 have mild symptoms and some have no symptoms at all.
- Because children with the virus that causes COVID-19 can spread it to other children and to adults, it is important to take measures to minimize the risk of spread in school settings.
- In-person learning for elementary schools is likely to have less risk of in-school transmission than for middle schools and high schools.
- In-person instruction should be prioritized over extracurricular activities to minimize the risk of transmission.

# CDC Recommendations - Deciding How to Open

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- It is critical for schools to open as safely and as soon as possible, and remain open, to achieve the benefits of in-person learning and key support services.
- To enable schools to open and remain open, it is important to adopt and consistently implement actions to slow the spread of COVID-19 both in schools and in the community.
- If community transmission is high, students and staff are more likely to come to school while infectious, and COVID-19 can spread more easily in schools.
- K-12 schools should be the last settings to close after all other mitigation measures in the community have been employed, and the first to reopen when they can do so safely.
- Given the likely association between levels of community transmission of COVID-19 and risk of COVID-19 exposure in schools, a **first step** in determining when and how to reopen safely involves assessing the level of community transmission.
  - School administrators, working with local public health officials, should assess the level of risk in the community and the likelihood of a case in a school facility, the likelihood that a case would lead to an outbreak, and the consequences of in-school transmission.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/indicators.html>

# Recommended Implementation of Mitigation Strategies and K-12 Learning Modes by Level of Community Transmission

Low Transmission (1)	Moderate Transmission	Substantial Transmission	High Transmission
<p>All Schools: Universal and correct use of masks is required: implementing other key mitigation strategies; handwashing and respiratory etiquette; cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities; contact tracing and diagnostic testing (2) in combination with quarantine and isolation.</p>			
<p>K-12 schools open for full in-person instruction.</p> <p>Physical distancing of 6 feet or more to the greatest extent possible (3).</p>		<p>Elementary Schools in hybrid mode (4); physical distancing of 6 feet or more required</p>	
		<p>Middle and high schools in hybrid learning mode or reduced attendance.</p> <p>Physical distancing of 6 feet or more is required</p>	<p>Middle and high schools in virtual only instruction unless they can strictly implement all mitigation strategies, and have few cases</p> <p>Schools that are already open for in-person instruction can remain open, but only if they strictly implement mitigation strategies and have few cases (5)</p>
<p>Sports and extracurricular activities with masks required; physical distancing of 6 feet or more to the greatest extent possible (6)</p>	<p>Sports and extracurricular activities with masks and physical distancing of 6 feet or more required</p>	<p>Sports and extracurricular activities occur only if they can be held outdoors, with masks and physical distancing of 6 feet or more required</p>	<p>Sports and extracurricular activities virtual only</p>



# Footnotes – Community Transmission Chart

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1: Levels of community transmission defined as total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days (low, 0-9; moderate, 10-49; substantial, 50-99; high,  $\geq 100$ ) and percentage of positive tests in the past 7 days (low,  $< 5\%$ ; moderate, 5-7.9%; substantial, 8-9.9%; high,  $\geq 10\%$ ).<sup>2</sup>Levels of community transmission defined as total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days (low, 0-9; moderate, 10-49; substantial, 50-99; high,  $\geq 100$ ) and percentage of positive tests in the past 7 days (low,  $< 5\%$ ; moderate, 5-7.9%; substantial, 8-9.9%; high,  $\geq 10\%$ ).

2: Diagnostic testing for SARS-CoV-2 is intended to identify occurrence of SARS-CoV-2 infection at the individual level and is performed when there is a reason to suspect that an individual may be infected, such as having symptoms or suspected recent exposure.

3: If physical distancing of at least 6 feet among all students, teachers, and staff within a class, cohort, or pod is not possible at all times, schools should ensure physical distancing between classes, cohorts, and pods.

4: Hybrid learning, or reduced attendance is intended to maximize physical distance between students. Schools may consider hybrid learning models or instructional modes where substantial percentages of students are in virtual only instruction. At all levels of community transmission, schools should provide families the option to participate in virtual learning if a student or family member is at risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

5: Strict implementation of mitigation strategies includes policies that require consistent and correct use of masks, physical distancing of at least 6 feet, all other key mitigation strategies.

6: School officials should implement limits on spectators and attendees for sports, extracurricular activities, and school events as consistent with recommendations for masking and physical distancing for each phase.







# How do schools safely open?

Evidence suggests that many K-12 schools that have strictly implemented mitigation strategies have been able to safely open for in-person instruction and remain open. The CDC provides an operational strategy to support K-12 schools in opening for in-person instruction and remaining open through an integrated package of mitigation components. These essential elements include:

- Consistent implementation of layered mitigation strategies to reduce transmission of COVID-19 in schools
- Indicators of community transmission to reflect level of community risk
- Phased mitigation and learning modes based on levels of community transmission
- The following public health efforts provide additional layers of COVID-19 prevention in schools:
  - Testing to identify individuals with COVID-19 infection to limit transmission and outbreaks
  - Vaccination for teachers and school staff, and in communities, as soon as supply allows



# CDC Recommended Mitigation Strategies

CDC Mitigation Strategies	Hingham COVID-19 Strategies
Universal and correct use of masks	
Social distancing	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3-6 foot physical distancing depending on circumstances</li> </ul>
Handwashing	
Maintaining clean facilities	
Contact tracing	
<p>The following public health efforts provide additional layers of COVID-19 prevention in schools:</p>	
<p>Testing to identify individuals with COVID-19 infection to limit transmission and outbreaks</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voluntary Staff COVID testing in place</li> <li>• Voluntary Student Pool Testing planned</li> </ul>
<p>Vaccination for teachers and school staff, and in communities, as soon as supply allows</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Based on State Guidelines &amp; Availability</li> <li>• School Committee Resolution passed to advocate for expedited vaccines for educators and school personnel</li> </ul>