

Good Afternoon Beverly Parents and Families,

I hope you are enjoying the last week of summer (and staying cool!!). We are very excited to welcome your children back next week. I am writing today to provide an update regarding the opening of schools and information that was shared with the school committee at our meeting on Wednesday evening. In the meeting, I outlined the guidance that we received throughout the summer, including the final determination by the Board of Education and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) that masks will be mandatory for all students and staff in all public school buildings at the start of the school year. This mask requirement began effective immediately on August 25, 2021 and will remain in effect until further notice.

In addition to the mask requirement, there are additional mitigation strategies that we will employ as we keep your students' safety in our schools our top priority. We have all learned quite a bit over the past year and our preparations for the start of school reflect the most updated recommendations from the CDC, the Massachusetts Department of Health and DESE. This year, we are able to offer two parts of the COVID testing program, one designed to assist in diagnosing students who show minimal symptoms **while at school** and the second for those who may have been exposed **while in school** if the student is not showing any symptoms. Instead of needing to quarantine and missing school, this "test and stay" option will allow students to take a daily rapid test and remain in school as long as they are not symptomatic. More information on this testing program will be forwarded to you on Sunday.

As I stated in my last email, vaccines continue to be the primary and best mitigation strategy against the spread of COVID-19. We will continue to provide opportunities for access to vaccines for students and will soon provide updated data on our COVID dashboard regarding vaccination rates and local daily incidence rates for COVID-19. Please remember, many of our successful COVID Protocols that remain in place are:

- ☐ If you are sick, stay home
- ☐ Masks must be worn on buses, vans and in the Health Offices (Federal requirement)
- ☐ Masks must be worn indoors until further notice (DESE requirement)
- ☐ Hand sanitizer and cleaning supplies will be available in each classroom and throughout the building
- ☐ Nightly cleaning using disinfectant
- ☐ High touch areas cleaned throughout the day

Additionally, we will continue to encourage frequent hand washing, maintain our attention to 3 foot distancing where possible, provide opportunities for outdoor lunch and mask breaks and encourage outdoor learning opportunities as we did this past school year.

The [full presentation](#) is available on our website and a link to our [Mask Protocol](#) is provided here. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to your building principal, myself in Central Office, or if you have specific COVID-19 related questions, you may use our email covidquestions@beverlyschools.org which is monitored regularly by our school

health professionals and our Local Public Health nurse. Once again, thank you for the trust you have placed in us and in our partnership. We are looking forward to greeting your child and welcoming them into the new school year!

Sincerely,

Sue Charochak
Superintendent of Schools