

# NORTHAMPTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## SCHOOL COMMITTEE

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**John A. Provost, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent

**Camie Lamica, CPA**  
Business Administrator

May 27, 2021

Dear Caregivers:

I am writing to update you on steps the district is taking to keep your students safe at school. The Pfizer vaccine is an important new means we have to facilitate a faster return to normal school routines. Students 12 and older are now eligible to receive the vaccine. To increase vaccine availability to our school community, we are partnering with the Health Department to provide vaccines alongside our emergency meal distribution.

Understandably, some caregivers want more information before their children receive a vaccine. We have assembled a panel of physicians from Baystate Health, Cooley Dickinson Health Care, and Northampton Area Pediatrics to offer a Town Hall Meeting on Thursday June 3rd from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Please see the attached flyer for more information about the Town Hall. To ensure you receive the information you need, I invite you to submit your questions for our panelists via this link: [submit your questions for the panelists](#).

I would also like to take this opportunity to explain why we are continuing to require students to wear masks at recess at this time. Permitting unmasked, undistanced contact conflicts with the current CDC guidelines, as does the DESE recommendation to not quarantine individuals who come into contact with a positive person at recess. Our Health Department follows CDC guidelines and as such would consider unmasked, undistanced students who were at recess with a positive individual to be close contacts and require them to quarantine. Given the dynamics of a recess setting, allowing unmasked recess could easily result in the quarantining of many students and a substantial disruption to school operations.

I wish you all a safe and enjoyable Memorial Day weekend.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Provost, Ed.D.", written in a cursive style.

John A. Provost, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools