

NPS School Maintenance September 11, 2020

Our staff returned to the buildings on August 31st, and they have been fully engaged in professional development and planning activities. Our buildings are clean and safe for the number of people currently occupying the spaces. The tipping point is that we are going to have almost half the students in each building at one time and a lot more activity in each building, which is why we need the ventilation systems to be operating efficiently and optimally, with doors and windows open as appropriate. There are still repairs that need to be made, but nothing should prevent us from welcoming students in the Blue, Gold and Green cohorts into the buildings on September 29th.

The Town of Needham Building Maintenance Division (BMD) and the Needham Public Schools are collaborating to ensure that our schools and classrooms are properly ventilated:

- The Town of Needham continues to assess and repair maintenance systems, including Heating, Ventilation, & Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems in all of the schools:

- The Town has completed the installation of higher rated [Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value \(MERV\) air filters](#), MERV 13 or higher filters, in most of the schools and we are awaiting deliveries for Mitchell. Coupled with other measures, including mask wearing, the use of these filters will greatly mitigate the potential spread of virus particulates in our schools.

- Mitchell Elementary School and Pollard Middle School have older ventilation systems that in the fall and winter weather will be supplemented by the use of open windows, fans, and, [HEPA filters](#) as necessary.

Please see additional information available on the district's website: [School Maintenance](#)