

# Reopening Update

Return to Full and In-Person Instruction  
Franklin Public Schools  
*School Committee Meeting -- March 9, 2021*

# Why More In-Person Learning?

- Student engagement is waning and concerns abound about SEL and academics
- Unfortunately, Coronavirus is not going away. We have learned a lot in one year; extensive mitigation strategies in place to keep us safe
- Educators and vulnerable populations are prioritized for vaccination
- Emergency regulations in place to allow Commissioner to determine when hybrid no longer counts as Structured Learning Time -- K-5 and 6-8 announced recently; HS is TBD
  - Therefore, hybrid will no longer be an option.
- Plan for the fall - use the spring as an opportunity to “stress test” as more students are remote now than will be in the fall; plan class size and schedules accordingly
- Lessen summer “back-to-school” anxiety

# What Are We Planning For?

- K-5 students return full and in person
  - Required -- Monday, April 5
  - Five days a week, Monday -- Friday
- 6-12 students full and in person
  - Target -- Monday, April 12
  - Logistics
  - Health Metrics
  - Five days a week, Monday -- Friday

What the Wednesday schedules look like is still being discussed. We anticipate fully remote Wednesdays will no longer be an option.

Some of this depends on the state guidance on Structured Learning Time.

This model depends on a %age of our students staying remote

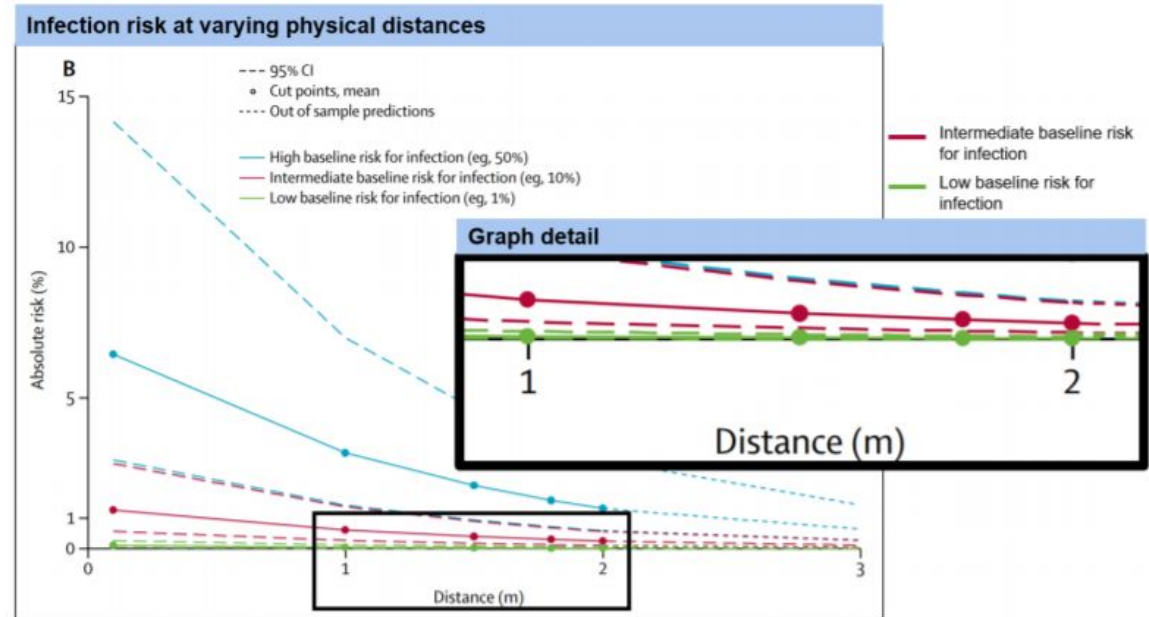


# Health and Safety: Core Safety Practices

- Distancing -- amended
  - Implement 3-6 feet for students, depends on school, classroom, and section size
  - Maintain 6 feet for faculty/staff wherever possible
- Face coverings and mask wearing -- still required
- Hand hygiene -- remains in place
  - Hand washing with instruction
  - Hand sanitization with monitoring

# Data on Mask Wearing and Physical Distancing

Data from *The Lancet* models the risk of infection in low and moderate risk settings (e.g. schools) at 3 and 6 feet of distance

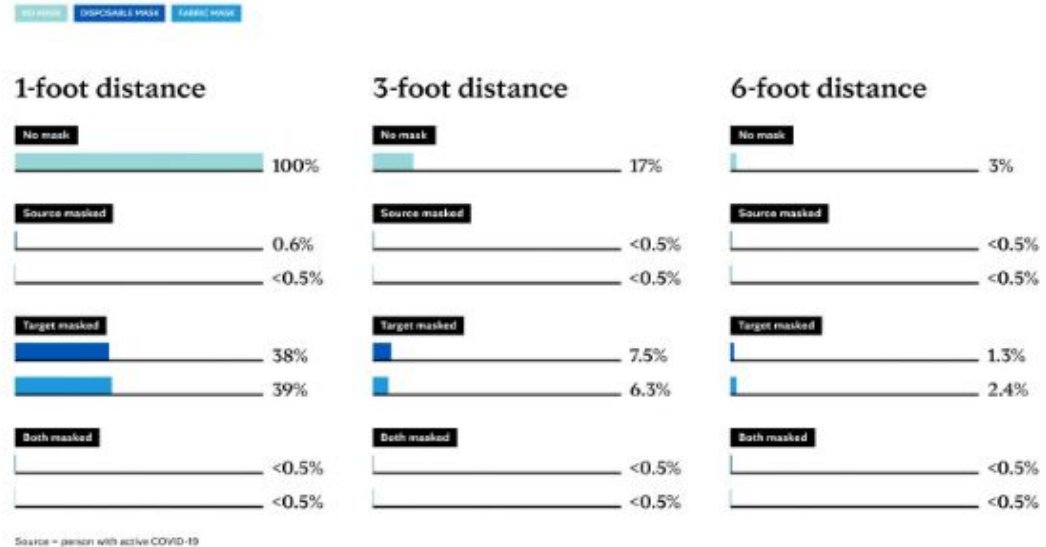


**Source:** Chu, D.K., Akl, E.A., Duda S., Solo K., Yaacoub S., Schunemann H.J. et al. (2020) Physical distancing, face masks, and eye protection to prevent person-to-person transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *The Lancet*.

- A study from the Mayo Clinic observed risk of contracting COVID-19 in masked and unmasked individuals at 1, 3 and 6 feet of distance. (albeit, unpublished)

## Data on Mask Wearing and Physical Distancing

### Exposure Risk Based on Masking and Distance



Supporting letter from physicians in MA

- When both source & target are masked, the risk related to physical distance is negligible.

## HVAC, UVGI and Indoor Air Quality

- HEPA filter air purifiers: 2 per classroom allow for 8 air exchanges per hour, exceeding the recommended 6 (Harvard School of Public Health)


OVER 1000 OF THESE 2 TYPES ARE DEPLOYED  
IN THE FRANKLIN SCHOOLS TODAY

LARGE HEPA PURIFIER



SMALL HEPA PURIFIER





## HVAC, UVGI and Indoor Air Quality

- UVGI at HS and common spaces in complexes/independent schools--exceeds the safety standards
- Automatic controls monitor carbon dioxide to maintain 200-600 PPM (below the suggested value)

We are **exceeding standards** for air quality and exchange rates.





## **Additional Health and Safety Considerations**

- Daily screening of symptoms
- Ample supply of PPE
- Will continue to be responsive to staff concerns and provided requested PPE to assist in feeling safe
- Educators and most vulnerable in MA getting vaccinated
  - Continue to pursue avenues to host a local clinic
- Daily disinfecting and cleaning will continue; high touch surfaces cleaned repeatedly throughout the day
- Students will contribute to cleaning items/spaces that they use, as developmentally appropriate



## **Pool Testing Update**

- Began pool testing at Oak and HMMS on February 25
- All other schools began on March 8
- 695 in-person students and staff tested on March 8
- Recruiting additional families and faculty/staff to participate
- Funded through April 18
- Preparing a budget for continuation

# COVID-19 and Franklin Public Schools

- No evidence of in-school transmission
- 204 close contacts identified at school; 0 tested positive subsequently, to our knowledge
- Cases are most often related to exposure outside of the school setting
- 71% of cases have not been in school within the last 7 days of identification (mostly due to already being in quarantine)

*\*Schools in MA who have been or are at 3 feet of distancing have had little to no in-school transmission.*

# **COVID-19 and Franklin Public Schools Cont.**

- Moving from 6 feet to closer distancing between students will increase the number of close contacts identified within the school setting.
- May result in periodic need to shift to remote by classroom, team, or school. This will depend on the level of cases in the community.



# **Transportation of Students to/from School**

- New guidance from DESE
- Allows for increased bus capacity
- Physical distancing restrictions are lifted for K-5 students riding the bus
- Physical distancing restrictions are lessened for grades 6-12 students riding the bus; standard depends on community spread
- All other safety practices in place -- hand hygiene, mask wearing, distancing at bus stops; symptom screening
- Windows on buses must be open by two inches



## Lunch for Students

- 6 feet of distancing
- Will vary by building
- Use of cafeteria, classrooms, alternative spaces
- Tents will return to many schools this spring for lunch and mask breaks

Worst case scenario: upper grades - early dismissal with a grab and go lunch with remote lesson in afternoon, if absolutely necessary and as long as it meets SLT requirements

Breakfast and snack are still being worked out but will be approached with the same caution related to health and safety.



# **Lunches, Prep Time, Mask Breaks for Staff**

Each building will have designated spaces for staff to eat lunch, have prep time, and have mask breaks.



## Instruction: K-5

- K-5 hybrid elementary students will be assumed to attend full and in-person unless they request fully remote
- K-5: if families opt for fully remote, the student will be part of the VLA, if there is room. If too many families opt for remote, we will find/develop a remote alternative. Early survey data indicates these numbers are likely to be low.
- Stricter attendance policy on participation in-person; reduced flexibility to be remote from home and counted as “virtually present”
- After hybrid students are accounted for in classrooms, VLA students may request to return in-person if there is room, but room may be limited





## Instruction: Grades 6-8

- Grades 6-8 have experienced flexibility with instructional model; flexibility must be reduced
- Conduct survey of families to ask for commitment to being remote or in-person for remainder of the school year.
- Stricter attendance policy on participation in-person; reduced flexibility to be remote from home and counted as “virtually present”.
- We anticipate remote instruction will likely change. For example, less live streaming/video conferencing from class as teachers attend to more in person students. Will still meet Structured Learning Time expectations for synchronous learning.



## Instruction: Grades 9-12

- Grades 9-12 have experienced flexibility with instructional model; flexibility must be reduced
- Space in-person with the current HS staffing and schedule is very limited and depends on a significant portion of the HS being remote.
- Conduct survey of families to ask for commitment to being remote or in-person for remainder of the school year.
- Stricter attendance policy on participation in-person; reduced flexibility to be remote from home and counted as “virtually present”.
- Teachers will adapt instruction to meet Structured Learning Time expectations.



# Instruction Continued

- Planning for instruction for students in temporary quarantine.
- If an entire class needs to quarantine, the entire class will shift to remote instruction with their teacher. This could also pertain to a team (middle school) or an entire school, as we have already seen this year.



# Personnel

- In general, faculty and staff will continue to be expected to be in person for work
- Leaves of absence
- Remote work accommodations
- Hiring
  - Lunch monitors and supervisory aides
  - Tutors to support students in quarantine
  - Additional teachers, if necessary/feasible
  - Restore cafeteria staff
  - Restore Solutions staff



## Logistics

We need your help!

Volunteers:

Lunch/activity monitors

Pool testing

Crossing guards

**Furniture movers** -- hundreds of desks, chairs, and tables need to be moved throughout the schools in just 4-5 weeks

## March 2, 2021 Survey Results of Hybrid Families

In person or remote preference if hybrid instruction were discontinued

Elem

Cohort	In-person	Remote	Grand Total
A	463	5	468
B	501	9	510
IP	170	1	171
VLA		7	7
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,134</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1,156</b>

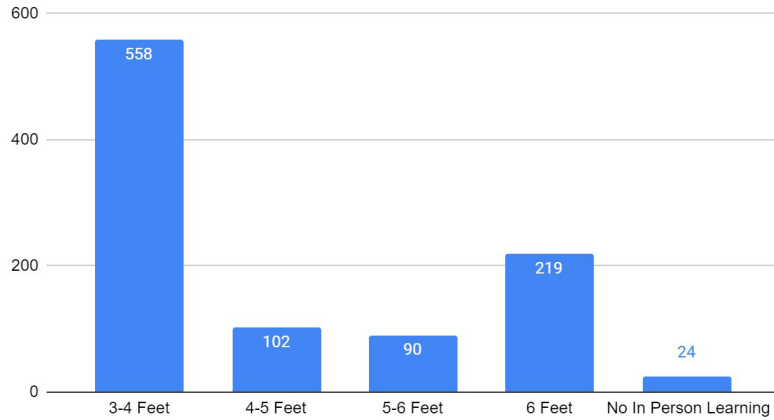
MS

Cohort	In-person	Remote	Grand Total
A	291	11	302
B	304	21	325
IP	23	1	24
V	18	31	49
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>636</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>700</b>

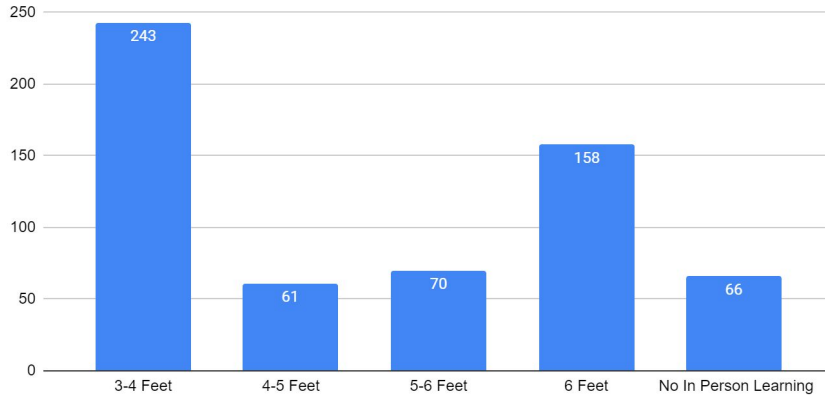
Recent high school survey about collapsing cohorts confirmed approximately 500 remote only students.

**For Reference:  
Recent Survey  
Data**

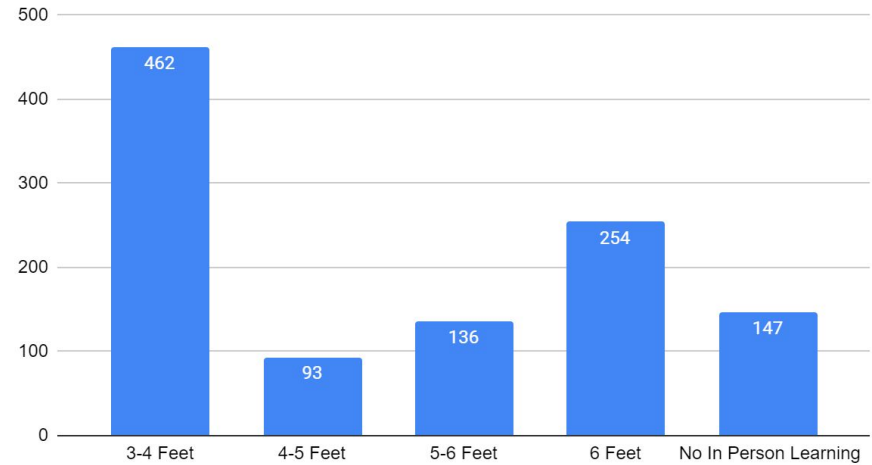
Elementary Parents' Comfort Level with Distancing Standards



Middle School Parents' Comfort Level with Distancing Standards



FHS Parents' Comfort Level with Distancing Standards



# Questions?