



Franklin Public Schools

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Reopening of Schools 2020-2021

Status Update
January 22, 2021

Health Metrics -- Past Four Weeks of Data

	Franklin				MA			
Report Date DPH	Avg Daily Cases per 100,000	Trend	% +	Trend	Avg Daily Cases per 100,000	Trend	% +	Trend
12/31	41.9	Higher	7.36%	Higher	58.3	Lower	6.51%	Higher
1/7	35.2	Lower	7.06%	Lower	61.1	Higher	7.71%	Higher
1/14	40.2	Higher	7.19%	No change	78	Higher	7.99%	Higher
1/22	43.0	Higher	6.77%	Lower	75.5	Lower	6.85%	Lower

Past Four Weeks of Cases in Franklin Public Schools

Positive Cases Week of	Positive Cases Cumulative FPS*	Number of Students in Quarantine (% of 4089)	Number of Staff in Quarantine due to self or children (% of approx. 750)	Active Positive Cases Town of Franklin
17 Individuals (week of 12/26)	105 (9/16-1/1)	138 (3.4%)	33 (approx. 4.4%)	Not reported
23 Individuals (week of 1/2)	128 (9/16-1/7)	88 (2.2%)	51 (approx. 6.8%)	91 (1/6)
31 Individuals (week of 1/9)	159 (9/16-1/14)	141 (3.4%)	45 (approx. 6%)	190 (1/12)
16 Individuals (week of 1/16)	175 (9/16-1/21)	150 (3.7%)	34 (approx. 4.5%)	

Open Questions

1. Will we be able to maintain enough staff in our schools to supervise in person learning as case counts climb and more staff members need to quarantine due to personal situations or school-related cases?
2. How can the district support staff to sustain the demands of teaching and learning in the hybrid and remote environments?

Teaching and Learning

1. **VLA Family Night.** Mr. Kaufman is hosting a family meeting for VLA families on January 27, 2021. He will be joined by Dr. Edwards and one of the VLA teachers to have a conversation with families and answer questions.
2. **Senior Internship.** Dr. Edwards has applied to DESE to indicate the district's interest in having seniors in good standing participate in a paid internship by working in our elementary and/or middle schools later this winter and into the spring. Final details are being worked out regarding this program but we are excited that there is interest from about ten students. This will provide additional assistance in school buildings, particularly as college students return to school.

Digital Learning/Technology

Clarification of Tech Support.

1. When students are having technical difficulties, **the first step is to contact their teacher.**
2. If the student is in school, the teacher will take steps to resolve the issue.
3. If your student is at home, after contacting the teacher, go to the [FPS Technology Support](#) website.



For example, if it is a remote day for your student, follow these steps:

1. Notify the teacher
2. Visit the [FPS Technology Support](#) website
3. Choose the REMOTE button
4. Choose the *student at home* button to contact the Distance Learning Help Desk.

For more information about the process, join the DLIs virtually on February 3rd at 7:00 pm for a Parent Support Session "Accessing Technology Support and FAQ" at this [Meet link](#).

Whole Child Supports

1. **Food Services:** Grab and Go breakfast and lunch continue to be available behind Franklin High School Monday- Friday from 11am-1pm. All meals are free for everyone until June 30, 2021. Contactless pickup, or delivery can be arranged if needed.

Personnel

1. **Vaccinations.** We continue to remain informed about the phase 2 roll out of vaccinations, which will include educators. At this time, we do not have more concrete information on a timeline but have learned a lot through the vaccine clinics last week and this week and feel well informed should we be hosting a clinic here for staff.

Health and Safety

1. **Pool Testing.** FPS administration held information sessions for families and faculty/staff during the week of January 11. We also have been gathering survey information. Initial indication is that a large percentage of staff and a majority families are interested in pool testing. We anticipate that as further information is gathered and communicated, more participants will opt into the program.
 - a. Actions planned: District leaders will be attending a pool testing webinar on Friday, January 22, 2021. Another information session about BinaxNow antigen tests is planned for Tuesday, January 26, 2021 and we plan to attend.
 - b. Actions planned: We will issue additional communication in the coming days to families and faculty/staff on the pool testing pilot.
2. **Travel Expectations.** We need to reiterate the message regarding FPS travel expectations so I am doing so here as well in the Superintendent's Report for this Committee meeting.

There are loopholes in the Executive Order where travelers can be tested up to 72 hours prior to arrival in Massachusetts. It is creating fear and worry and potential risk within FPS. Therefore, it is the expectation of the Franklin Public Schools that children are tested for COVID upon return to Massachusetts.

- a. Actions taken: We discussed this as part of the COVID Interim Policy review during the Policy Subcommittee meeting on Thursday, January 21, 2021.
- b. Actions taken: COVID-Handbooks and website has been updated.

Selected Issues from Recent Updates and Status of Actions

Issue	Action	Anticipated Timeframe	Status
Technology Support	Digital Learning Integrationists and the Technology Director are developing communications to more clearly identify who to seek for tech support and under what circumstances.		Completed
Increased bandwidth	Internet line is being upgraded from 2GB to 10 GB. Firewall being installed. Upgraded bandwidth to be experienced after installation.	New firewall is being installed on 1/25/2021	In process
HVAC	Controls are being installed at FHS and Town Municipal building and HVAC is being installed at complex schools.	By mid-February	In process

	In the meantime, air purifiers are deployed widely across the district to provide coverage.		
K and Grade 1 Support to Families	Committee will continue to meet to provide support to K and 1 families when remote.	Ongoing	Ongoing