



Franklin Public Schools

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Reopening of Schools 2020-2021

Status Update

January 7, 2021

Health Metrics -- Past Four Weeks of Data

	Franklin				Norfolk County				MA			
Report Date DPH	Avg Daily Cases per 100,000	Trend	% +	Trend	Avg Daily Cases per 100,000	Trend	% +	Trend	Avg Daily Cases per 100,000	Trend	% +	Trend
12/17	31.5	Higher	5.03%	Higher	47.3	Higher	4.89%	Higher	65.1	Higher	6.01%	Higher
12/24	36.4	Higher	6.02%	Higher	48.2	Lower	5.16%	Higher	63.2	Lower	6.14%	Higher
12/31	41.9	Higher	7.36%	Higher	47.5	Lower	5.69%	Higher	58.3	Lower	6.51%	Higher
1/7	35.2	Lower	7.06%	Lower					61.1	Higher	7.71%	Higher

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
15 Individuals (week of 12/12)	73 (9/16-12/17)	153 (3.7%)	47 (approx. 6%)	95 (12/15)
15 Individuals (week of 12/19)	88 (9/16-12/24)	154 (3.8%)	31 (approx. 4.1%)	145 (12/23)
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)

DESE Reported Cases

Positive Students who had been in building (past 7 days from + case report)	Positive faculty/staff who had been in building (past 7 days from + case report)
22	19

Approximately 2/3rds of our cases are not reported at the DESE level because a majority of individuals are not in the school buildings 7 days prior to the report of their case. This is because they had been in quarantine as a close contact or they had been remote due to the hybrid schedule. As a result of this trend, the number of close contacts identified in the school setting has kept our close contact numbers very low.

Cumulative Case Counts by School (9/16/2020 -- 1/7/2021)

Will be shared at the Committee meeting.

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. **Structured Learning Time.** The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has set new requirements for synchronous learning time in hybrid and remote learning models. Franklin Public Schools is preliminarily cleared as we are meeting the minimum requirement, on average of 35 hours per 2 week period in the hybrid setting and 40 hours per 2 week period for remote.
 - o Actions taken: Principals are sharing SLT information with faculty and staff to keep them informed. Adjustments may be made, if needed, on a case by case basis.
 - o Actions planned: We will submit SLT data when DESE follows-up in February.
2. **Changes to MCAS 2021.** DESE announced changes to MCAS for 2021 which are summarized as follows:
 - o Modified competency determination for class of 2021.
 - o Shortened testing time for grades 3-8.
 - o Accountability relief related to under performing schools.
 - o Extending ACCESS testing window.
 - o Flexibility on MCAS Grade 9 Biology test scheduling.

More details can be found in this announcement:

<https://us14.campaign-archive.com/?u=d8f37d1a90dacd97f207f0b4a&id=fa6714cb3b>

- a. Actions planned: Communicate changes to faculty /staff and families and make/adjust testing plans.

Digital Learning/Technology

1.

Whole Child Supports

1. **Food Services.** Families eligible for free and reduced lunch will receive Pandemic EBT benefits starting this week, which will occur throughout the remainder of the school year. Benefits vary based on the instructional model. (Fully remote \$117.20 per month; hybrid is \$58.60 per month; half-day or fully in person is not eligible).
 - a. Actions taken: Notification letters which describe how to access benefits are being sent to families on Friday January 8, 2021.

Personnel

1. **Staffing.** As case numbers rise, we continue to hear about worries and concerns about COVID positive cases within the community. We are striving to remain connected to the worries and concerns of our faculty/staff and be responsive wherever possible.

Health and Safety

1. **Pool Testing.** On Friday, Governor Baker and Commissioner Riley announced classroom based pool testing will be available for Massachusetts public schools.
 - a. Actions planned: We will continue to conduct ongoing research into surveillance and diagnostic testing, including attending the informational webinar DESE is offering. We will need to survey families and staff about willingness to participate in pool testing, the efficacy of which is dependent on having enough people willing to participate.
2. **HVAC.** UVGI has been installed at Franklin High School with final work being completed on setting up the automatic controls. "Large unit" installation at the complex schools is underway. Air purifiers have been distributed across the district. As an added measure, units are also being placed in the complex schools even in locations where UVGI will be installed.
3. **Vaccine Clinic.** Franklin is hosting a vaccination clinic for first responders from 5 regional towns on Wednesday, January 13 and Wednesday, January 20 in the gymnasium. We are so thrilled to be part of the rollout, which will allow us to learn and observe as we begin planning for phase II of vaccine distribution, which includes early childhood and K-12 educators. School nurses are now permitted to receive the vaccine in phase I.
 - a. Actions planned: Develop a schedule for our school nurses to be vaccinated in phase I.

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	To be completed 12/23/2020	In process

	who to seek for tech support and under what circumstances.		
Increased bandwidth	<p>Internet line is being upgraded from 2GB to 10 GB.</p> <p>When new Firewall is in place (has been ordered) we will have 10 GB service.</p>	First installation week of 12/21 provides for 6 GB	In process
Kindergarten and Grade 1 possible scenarios for full and in-person learning	<p>Administrative walkthroughs of school sites week of 11/16/2020</p> <p>Consideration of factors - ongoing</p> <p>Scenarios reported to School Committee K and 1 families and classroom teachers surveys were completed.</p> <p>Analysis of surveys shared with faculty/staff at a meeting. Committee of educators convened to develop supports for families and ideas to collaborate as teachers.</p> <p>Update to the School Committee on January 12, 2021.</p>	Next update January 12, 2021	In process
New Teacher Laptops	Distribution of new laptops	96% complete as of 1/8/2021	In process
Remote Monday January 5, 2021	Held a remote learning day on Monday January 5, 2021. This was very helpful in assessing COVID positive cases including previously uncommunicated travel situations that needed to be tracked.		Resolved
Adjustment to FHS Wednesday Schedule	Additional asynchronous time for FHS students allows for planning time for teachers and flexibility for students. High school students may flexibly two periods of their schedule which may allow for additional sleep time.		Resolved.