



## Franklin Public Schools

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### Reopening of Schools 2020-2021

Status Update  
February 9, 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
1/14	40.2	Higher	7.19%	No change	78	Higher	7.99%	Higher
1/21	43.0	Higher	6.77%	Lower	75.5	Lower	6.85%	Lower
1/28	46.3	Higher	5.50%	Lower	59.4	Lower	5.51%	Lower
2/4	50.5	Higher	4.77%	Lower	48.9	Lower	4.32%	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)
31 Individuals (week of 1/9)	159 (9/16-1/14)	141 (3.4%)	45 (approx. 6%)
16 Individuals (week of 1/16)	175 (9/16-1/21)	150 (3.7%)	34 (approx. 4.5%)
31 Individuals (week of 1/23)	206 (9/16-1/29)	168 (4.1%)	TBA
19 Individuals (week of 1/30)	225 (9/16-2/5)	123 (3%)	TBA

#### Open Questions

1. How can the district support staff to sustain the demands of teaching and learning in the hybrid and remote environments?
2. How will pool testing and vaccinations of staff contribute to a shift in the instructional model to in person learning?

#### Teaching and Learning

1. **Student Attendance.** We are aware of a significant number of students, particularly at the high school, who are choosing to remain remote. FHS administrators have been thinking about ways to increase the number of students who are able to access the building since many students assigned to be in person are choosing not to attend. This is more complicated than it seems, given fluctuations of class size in the schedule and transportation considerations for the cohorts.
  - a. **Actions Being Taken:** We continually review our schedule and cohorts and are striving towards more students attending school in person.
2. **Virtual Learning Academy.** We have communicated that K-5 families who wish to request remote only learning through the Virtual Learning Academy may do so at this time. We are aiming to make changes, as feasible, in early March. We are not asking that they wait until the end of the second trimester.

### Digital Learning/Technology

- 1.

### Whole Child Supports

- 1.

### Personnel

- 1.

### Health and Safety

1. **Pool Testing.** FPS applied to DESE to participate in the pool testing program on January 28, 2021. We also secured the necessary approvals for the Abbot Binax NOW Antigen kits. We were matched to Project Beacon who has engaged in outreach during the week of February 1, hosting a lengthy webinar for district and school leaders. Congressman Auchincloss's office has connected us to the Shah Foundation for project management support.
  - a. **Actions Taken:** FPS administrators attended a logistics webinar with DESE on January 29, in addition to complete the required paperwork to join the DESE pilot. They also attended the onboarding webinar with the vendor.
  - b. **Actions Planned:** FPS administrators are meeting with the Shah Foundation on Monday, February 8. Following this, FPS administrators are preparing an informational presentation to be shared as part of this status update on Tuesday, February 9 and also with faculty /staff and families during the week of February 8. Consent forms and registration through the online portal will be sent to faculty /staff and families. We aim to begin testing on Thursday, February 25 in a few pilot schools before expanding to other schools in the following week.

### Other

1. **ESSER2.** Allocations from the second round of Federal stimulus funding came out recently and the allocation to Franklin approximates \$475,000. This funding will be applicable to COVID-related expenses through September 2023. Districts are advised to spend down ESSER1 allocations first, as those expire in September 2021. Should pool testing prove to be an effective

way to control COVID within our school community, we would propose that a significant portion of this funding be allocated to surveillance testing for as long as it is needed.

#### **Selected Issues from Recent Updates and Status of Actions**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Anticipated Timeframe</b>	<b>Status</b>
Increased bandwidth	Internet line is being upgraded from 2GB to 10 GB.		Completed
HVAC	FHS UVGI controls have been installed and activated. HVAC continues to be installed at complex schools.  In the meantime, air purifiers are deployed widely across the district to provide coverage.	Mid-late February	In process
K and Grade 1 Support to Families	Committee will continue to meet to provide support to K and 1 families when remote.	Ongoing	Ongoing
Advocacy for vaccination of FPS Faculty /staff	Franklin School Committee sent a letter to Governor Baker.  Dr. Ahern and Ms. Donna Grady (FEA president) joined 41 other Superintendents and 22 Union Presidents in a joint advocacy letter to the Governor.		Completed