



Franklin Public Schools

Office of the Superintendent
355 East Central Street; Suite 3
Franklin, Massachusetts 02038
Phone: 508-553-4819

Reopening of Schools 2020-2021

Status Update

April 23, 2021

Health Metrics -- Past Four Weeks of Data (14-day trends)

	Franklin				MA			
Report Date DPH	Avg Daily Cases per 100,000	Trend	% +	Trend	Avg Daily Cases per 100,000	Trend	% +	Trend
4/1	20.0	Higher	1.86%	Higher	25.6	Higher	2.36%	Higher
4/8	23.4		2.19%		28.1		2.29%	
4/15	20.6		1.99%		27.4		2.48%	
4/22	15.2		1.59%		24.7		2.30%	

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)
16 Individuals (week of 3/27)	311 (9/16-4/2)	72 (2%)	7 (0.9%)
9 Individuals (week of 4/3)	320 (9/16-4/9)	61 (1.4%)	4 (0.5%)
14 Individuals (week of 4/10)	334 (9/16-4/16)	107 (3%)	7 (0.9%)
5 Individuals (week of 4/17)	339 (9/16-4/23)	N/A (April Vacation)	N/A (April Vacation)

Pool Testing Data

Cumulative 2/25 -- 4/23	8157 Swabs	1274 Pools	11 Positive Pools 5 False Positive Pools
Week of 4/19 -- 4/23	N/A - April vacation	N/A - April vacation	N/A - April vacation

Week of 4/12 -- 4/16	1649 Swabs	178 Pools	2 Positive Pools 2 False Positive Pools
Week of 4/5 -- 4/9	1434 Swabs	172 Pools	3 Positive Pools 2 False Positive Pools
Week of 3/29 -- 4/2	1383 Swabs	172 Pools	4 Positive Pools 1 False Positive Pool
Week of 3/22-3/26	1151 Swabs	169 Pools	2 Positive Pools

Open Questions

1. Will we have to pivot to remote learning for any period of time in one or more schools due to a cluster of cases or staffing challenges due to quarantine restrictions?
2. As we approach the end of the year, how can we continue to hold our traditional events but modify and do so in a healthy and safe way? What can we do to keep our remote only students included in these activities?
3. What can we learn in the last few months of school in order to plan for a successful 2021-2022 school year? What should we put into place now to carry into the following school year?

Teaching and Learning

Members of the Reopening Monitoring Team met on Tuesday, April 16 to discuss and reflect on reopening. The vast majority of feedback reflected joy in having students return full time to the school building. Elementary teachers reflected relief in teaching students in person. Middle school and high school educators continue to balance remote only students and those in quarantine with the in person instruction.

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) met on April 20, 2021 and approved the Commissioner's proposed modifications to the competency determination requirement for current junior class (Class of 2022) due to the multiple times MCAS test administration has been cancelled as a result of the pandemic. According to the Commissioner's memo, the CD in ELA and mathematics would be awarded upon district certification that the student earned full credit for a relevant course aligned to the appropriate curriculum framework in that subject matter, and has demonstrated competency in that subject. This means that these students will not need to pass the MCAS as a graduation requirement. Juniors who still want to take the MCAS tests may choose to participate in the currently scheduled spring administration, or in the fall 2021 administration, to qualify for scholarship programs.

1. Actions planned: Continue to monitor instruction for feedback and support our educators. Evaluate the success of the K-5 Quarantine Tutor model.

Digital Learning

Whole Child Supports

DESE has announced that the US Department of Agriculture is extending the school meal waivers through 2021-2022 which will allow the schools to serve free meals to all children through not only the end of this school year, but also the summer and through the 2021-2022 school year.

1. Actions planned: Communication to faculty/staff and families about ongoing nutritional support.

Health and Safety

DESE developed a simple process to continue pool testing for the remainder of the year. We are able to continue with our current vendor.

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Governor's Medical Advisory Board, has changed the requirements for identification of close contacts in the school setting. This is a trend that is being seen in other states, as well, in order to foster the continuation of schools being open to full and in person learning. Close contacts who were exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual **in the classroom or on the bus while both individuals were masked** do not have to quarantine unless they were within 3 feet of distance of the COVID-19 positive individual for a total of 15 minutes during a 24-hour period. This does not apply if someone was identified as a close contact outside of the classroom or bus (e.g., in sports, extra-curriculars, lunch, etc.) or if masks are not worn by both persons at the time of the exposure. All other close contacts must follow the standard protocol for when a close contact may return to school.

1. Actions planned: Communication to faculty/staff and families about the continuation of pool testing and how to sign up. Additionally, we will communicate the new close contact procedures.

Personnel

Other