



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
February 18, 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
1/28	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
2/11	38.7	Lower	3.74%	Lower	38.5	Lower	3.40%	Lower
2/18	25.1	Lower	2.44%	Lower	30.0	Lower	2.70%	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 1/23)	206 (9/16-1/29)	168 (4.1%)	45 (approx. 6%)
19 Individuals (week of 1/30)	225 (9/16-2/5)	123 (3%)	35 (approx 4.5%)
11 Individuals (week of 2/6)	236 (9/16-2/12)	83 (2%)	14 (approx. 1.9%)
6 Individuals (week of 2/13)	242 (9/16-2/19)	N/A	N/A

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. **Structured Learning Time Survey Part 2.** We recently completed the second survey as required by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education regarding structured learning time (hours of synchronous and asynchronous learning in hybrid/remote learning models). The district's report continues to demonstrate that we are meeting the regulations that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education approved in December, which is an average of 35 hours of synchronous learning time in the hybrid model and 40 hours when fully remote over a ten school day period of time. The survey data was collected for the first two weeks in February which involved hybrid for all grade levels, unlike the first survey when our high school was fully remote.
 - a. Actions taken: Survey completed. No further actions planned at this time.
2. **Physical Distancing Survey.** As the district develops a plan for a full return to in person school for students in Franklin, families were asked about their comfort levels of physical distancing with and without pool testing. This information will be helpful in future planning.
 - a. Actions planned: Families will be resurveyed towards the end of the pool testing pilot.

Digital Learning/Technology

- 1.

Whole Child Supports

- 1.

Personnel

- 1.

Health and Safety

1. **Pool Testing.** Lucas Giguere and Paula Marano have been working with Project Beacon and our school principals and assistant principals to complete the onboarding process for the DESE pool testing pilot. Registration to families and faculty/staff including consent forms is underway through the vendor.
 - a. Actions planned: Initial implementation for early March. Additional information including FAQs and pros/cons to be posted to our website soon.
2. **Transportation Guidance.** DESE issued new transportation guidance on February 11. The guidance was issued following the gathering of additional data and guidance from the department's medical advisors. <https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop.html>
The following summarizes the core practices:
 - a. Masks will continue to be required by all staff and students on school busses, regardless of age, unless otherwise exempted for medical and/or behavioral reasons.
 - b. Physical distancing guidelines and resulting bus capacities have been updated. Districts may adopt the new standards when the required mitigation measures are followed.
 - i. Capacity limitations and physical distancing requirements for elementary students on buses are lifted.

- ii. Capacity limitations and physical distancing requirements for middle and high school students on buses are lifted, except in districts with high community prevalence of COVID-19. In districts with high community prevalence, requirements are amended to allow 2 students per bench.
 - c. Windows are to be kept open by two inches at all times. In adverse weather conditions, alternating windows can be opened. Districts should develop a rain plan.
- 3. **New CDC Guidance on Reopening Schools.** The Centers for Disease Control issued new guidance on February 12, 2021 to present an operational strategy for opening K-12 schools through a phased mitigation plan. The document presents recommendations based on the best available evidence at the time.
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html>
 CDC outlines essential elements of safe K-12 in person instruction:
 - a. Mitigation strategies to reduce transmission in schools
 - i. Masks
 - ii. Physical distancing
 - iii. Handwashing and hand hygiene
 - iv. Cleaning
 - v. Contact tracing
 - b. Indicators of community transmission based on total number of new cases per 100,000 in the past 7 days and percent positivity of nucleic acid amplification test that are positive within the last 7 days
 - c. A framework for phased mitigation and learning modes with and without screening tests for COVID -19 (e.g. pooled testing).

Actions planned: Use updated transportation guidance and CDC guidance on opening schools to assist in the development of an FPS return to school plan.

Selected Issues from Recent Updates and Status of Actions

Issue	Action	Anticipated Timeframe	Status
HVAC	<p>FHS UVGI controls have been installed and activated. HVAC continues to be installed at complex schools in the centralized locations.</p> <p>Air purifiers are deployed widely across the district to provide coverage in shared spaces and classrooms with univentilators.</p>	Late winter	In process

	Mike D'Angelo, Director of Facilities will be doing a presentation at the School Committee meeting on 2/23/21		
K and Grade 1 Support to Families	Committee will continue to meet to provide support to K and 1 families when remote.	Ongoing	Ongoing