



Franklin Public Schools

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Superintendent's Report to School Committee October 13, 2020 School Committee Meeting

School Reopening Update

Transition to Hybrid

October 19 is the target date for Grades 2, 3 and 6; October 26 is the target date for Grades 4, 5, 7, and 8. DESE urges districts to use three weeks of data regarding health metrics, shown below:

	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
9/23	2.7	Higher	0.97	Higher	3.7	Higher	0.74	No change	4.9	Higher	0.85	No change
9/30	3.2	No change	1.05	Higher	4.3	Higher	0.73	No change	5.7	Higher	0.87	No change
10/7	3.2	Higher	0.96	No change	5.1	Higher	0.80	No change	7.3	Higher	1.04	Higher

Based on the average daily cases being below 8 per 100,000 and the trend of an under 1% positivity rate, the metrics support the district going to in-person or hybrid learning. We will continue to move forward with plans for hybrid on October 19 and October 26 as noted above.

Franklin High School recently announced a new target date for transition to hybrid, a modified schedule that allows for more in-person contact time than the original model, and schedules for cohorts for the first semester.

In summary, FHS would transition to hybrid with three cohorts on November 2, beginning with cohort A. The student body would be divided into three cohorts, each attending school for one week and then learning remotely for two weeks. The schedule would be Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday with Wednesday as a remote day for all students and faculty/staff, except for those in specialized special education programs. This schedule divides students into thirds and fosters 4 days of contact time over three weeks instead of 4 days in 4 weeks.

"Destiny is not a matter of chance, it is a matter of choice"
Equal Opportunity Employer

UVGI Project Update

The project for the installation of Ultraviolet Germicidal Irradiation has begun. UVGI is not a required upgrade to our HVAC systems, but it is a suggested additional safety measure. Right now, we have made sure that all of our HVAC systems have had the required preventative maintenance and that all systems are appropriately outfitted with the correct MERV filter as rated for the system. The measurement of indoor air quality is monitored automatically and kept within 200-800 parts per million of Carbon Dioxide. We have opened all dampers to maximize air flow, as recommended by DESE.

The UVGI project will augment current safety efforts and is being planned for in phases. The phases were developed based on the design of the current HVAC system. Our facilities have two different types of HVAC units. There are “large units” that cover large spaces that are “tied” together such as libraries, main offices, and office suites. The other units are small, individual units in each classroom where there are unit ventilators. The exception is Franklin High School where the entire system is integrated together.

Phase 1	Keller-Sullivan (part 1)	Installed; as Keller-Sullivan had an existing HVAC project under way, the UVGI was conducted at the same time
Phase 2	Franklin High School	Under contract Work to begin in November
Phase 3	Large Units at Remington/Jeffson Keller/Sullivan (part 2) ECDC/Oak/HMMS	Bids due this week
Phase 4	Davis Thayer Kennedy Parmenter	
Phase 5	Unit Ventilators in classrooms	

Chromebooks and Technology

We continue to troubleshoot technology concerns and eagerly anticipate the arrival of new Chromebooks. New Chromebooks are en route and will be arriving soon. More information will be coming soon to families on how to swap an old Chromebook for a newer one.

We are using CvRF funding to support new laptops for teachers whose laptops are beyond 5 years old. Our technology department has diagnosed that some of the video challenges users are experiencing are due to the older nature of our devices and the processors are having a

difficult time managing the video demand. New chromebooks and new laptops should make a huge difference.

We are using CvRF funds to support a remote helpdesk service, which should improve tech support for both remote and in person users across the district. We have not added any positions to our technology department as a result of school reopening, however needs have dramatically shifted. This will be welcome relief and more targeted support.

We are also planning to augment our Internet bandwidth as we transition into a hybrid learning setting. Our initial use of the Internet has shown that our 2 GB line has been robust enough; however, with more anticipated users within the school building, we are moving towards expanded Internet. This was a consideration in the summer but we wanted to see what the demand would actually be before making this investment. The line is 40% reimbursable through the government's E-Rate program, which is why we are moving forward with it now.

Free Meals

The government has extended approval for free breakfast and lunch to be extended to all students through June 30, 2021.

Meals can be picked up at the rear of Franklin High School between 11 AM and 1 PM. Parents/guardians should order ahead of time by 9 AM. Instructions can be found on this webpage:

<https://sites.google.com/franklinps.net/returntoschoolplan/school-operations/food-services>

Concern About our Youngest Learners

I want to acknowledge that there is a lot of concern among families related to K and 1 in the remote setting. I don't have any simple answers here except to say that we know this school year is a fluid one and we need to be prepared for many different situations. We acknowledge the challenges of our youngest students in the remote setting. We appreciate the communication, particularly with concrete suggestions for us as we adapt, and encourage ongoing discussion of student needs so that we may be responsive.