

# Franklin Public Schools

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## Reopening of Schools 2020-2021

Status Update  
December 18, 2020

### 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
11/27	23.8	Higher	3.95%	Higher	21	Higher	2.38%	No Change	34.9	Higher	3.32%	Higher
12/3	23.4	Lower	3.85%	Lower	23.0	Higher	2.79%	Higher	35.7	Lower	3.73%	Higher
12/10	27.59	Higher	4.49%	Higher	34	Higher	4.01%	Higher	50.0	Higher	5.25%	Higher
12/17	31.5	Higher	5.03%	Higher	47.3	Higher	4.89%	Higher	65.1	Higher	6.01%	Higher

### Past Five 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
6 Individuals (week of 11/14)	26 (9/16-11/18)	84	30	104 (11/18)
3 Individuals (week of 11/21)	29 (9/16-11/27)	70	5	96 (11/24)
17 Individuals (week of 11/28)	46 (9/16-12/3)	105 (2.6%)	20	124 (12/1)
12 Individuals (week of 12/5)	58 (9/16-12/10)	141 (3.4%)	44	135 (12/9)
15 Individuals (week of 12/12)	73 (9/16-12/17)	153 (3.7%)	47 (approx. 6%)	95 ( <a href="#">12/15</a> )

\*Correction of a reporting error earlier on. One additional case being reported in the total.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's reported numbers will be lower as they report cases based on the presence of the individual in the school setting in the last seven days and do not report students who are fully remote. Due to our remote and hybrid model as well as the pattern of cases, many individuals who test positive have already been in quarantine and may not have been present in school in the past seven days.

For the week of 12/12, 9 of the 15 cases involve individuals who had not been in the building within the past seven days.

### 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. **Adjusted Curriculum Plans.** Priorities within the curriculum must be established in order to respond to learning gaps as a result of closure and a modified school calendar for 2020-2021. This is also a step towards ensuring consistency across schools within a level.
  - a. Actions taken: Curriculum leaders in the district have identified priority standards for literacy, mathematics, science and social studies and have shared this with faculty and staff. This work will be ongoing through the next several years as we think long-term about student learning post-pandemic.
2. **Kindergarten and Grade 1 In Person Learning.** Families and staff were surveyed about the scenarios presented at the December 8, 2020 survey. The survey closed at noon on December 18, 2020 which has not left enough time for a general overview of the data in this update.
  - a. Actions planned: Review of the survey results as a leadership team.
  - b. Actions taken: A curriculum team has met and is in the process of putting together suggestions for best practices to support K and 1 in hybrid. We are also seeing if we can recruit additional adults to help with the online portion of the remote learning time. Additionally, principals developed and sent a supportive communication to K and 1 families.
3. **Shift of the Instructional Model after Winter Break.** I am getting many questions from faculty/staff about a shift of the instructional model after winter break to be remote. At this time, the COVID positivity data in Franklin and in FPS does not support that decision. There is a significant logistical concern, however, about attendance and coverage within schools that may make operating difficult. We have already had to have two middle schools engage in remote learning due to coverage shortages (see more information below).
  - a. Action taken: Voluntary faculty meeting held with staff to provide additional information about COVID cases, updates including technology, as well as additional health and safety information.

- b. Action planned: Remind families and staff of holiday travel and guidance on gatherings. Continue to monitor health and safety data and make plan to address potential increase in cases after holidays.
- 4. **Adjustment to Wednesday instruction for FHS.** We are planning a remote schedule for FHS students and faculty/staff on Wednesdays to address two concerns we have heard about: student stress and screen time as well as staff stress and the need for additional planning.
  - a. Action taken: We are looking to modify the schedule for FHS on remote Wednesdays. Two periods will become asynchronous (like the middle school) and teachers will engage in further planning for instruction. Students will engage in asynchronous work for two periods. We will still be able to adhere to the Structured Learning Time expectations.

## Digital Learning/Technology

- 1.

## Whole Child Supports

- 1.

## Personnel

1. **Staffing.** As case numbers rise, we continue to have an increase in staff absences. Coverage continues to be a challenge at all levels. Many are wondering what metrics we are using in terms of numbers of staff absent prior to switching to a remote day.
  - a. Actions taken (noted in the last update): Principals and assistant principals are providing coverage as needed. This takes away from their other responsibilities, which at this time include contact tracing (see below) in addition to other customary responsibilities. We are recruiting additional subs and monitors as college students return home for the next several months. We are requiring negative COVID tests for employment.
  - b. Additional actions taken: Like many districts, I do not have definitive quantitative metrics on attendance to determine whether or not to move a school into remote learning for a day. Beyond an overall number of staff out, more needs to go into the decision including looking at which staff are out and their responsibilities within the school setting. We are also taking into consideration the duration for which coverage is a challenge for the school. The building administration and central office team discuss the coverage plan for a particular school and, when coverage can not be adequately provided, we have made the decision to go remote.

## Health and Safety

1. **Changing Guidance.** DESE just issued new guidance related to quarantines, providing districts with options consistent with guidance released by the CDC and adopted by the MA Department of Public Health.
  - a. Actions planned: FPS will review the guidance and adjust notification letters, as appropriate, in consultation with the local Health Department.

2. **HVAC.** UVGI installation is underway at Franklin High School and the “large unit” installation at complex schools is scheduled for the December break. The District procured 500 HEPA portable air purifiers from DESE at no charge for use in classrooms, which were delivered last week. Additional air purifiers were ordered through the Facilities Department and arrived in Franklin earlier this week. Air purifiers have been delivered to many schools, with Davis Thayer prioritized first due to the age of the building. Delivery is ongoing at this time. Instructions are being provided to staff.

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

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Anticipated Timeframe</b>	<b>Status</b>
Technology Support	Digital Learning Integrationists and the Technology Director are developing communications to more clearly identify who to seek for tech support and under what circumstances.	To be completed 12/23/2020	In process
Increased bandwidth	Internet line is being upgraded from 2GB to 10 GB.  When new Firewall is in place (has been ordered) we will have 10 GB service.	First installation week of 12/21 provides for 6 GB	In process
Kindergarten and Grade 1 possible scenarios for full and in-person learning	Administrative walkthroughs of school sites week of 11/16/2020 Consideration of factors - ongoing Scenarios reported to School Committee K and 1 families and classroom teachers surveys were completed.	Next update January 12, 2020	In process
New Teacher Laptops	Distribution of new laptops	30% complete as of 12/17/2020	In process
COVID Positive Case Communications	Attended legal webinar on privacy with COVID communications. Plan to continue with COVID communications as shared, out of privacy concerns.	11/19/2020	Resolved Re-opened.
	Issuing letters by school and not by complex to provide additional specificity.	12/2/2020	Resolved
New Chromebooks	Delivered and distributed	Week of 10/26/2020	Resolved

Transfer requests between hybrid/VLA K-5 (11/6/2020)	Administrators to review during the week of 11/23/2020 and communicate decisions to families.	Week of 11/30/2020	Resolved
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