



## Franklin Public Schools

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### Back to School 2021-2022

Status Update  
August 5, 2021

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

|                    | Franklin                    |       | MA                          |       |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|-------|-----------------------------|-------|
| Report Date<br>DPH | Avg Daily Cases per 100,000 | % +   | Avg Daily Cases per 100,000 | % +   |
| 7/15               | 0.4                         | 0.47% | 1.4                         | 0.51% |
| 7/22               | 1.3                         | 0.89% | 2.6                         | 0.88% |
| 7/29               | 3.2                         | 1.31% | 5.3                         | 1.46% |
| 8/5                | 6.7                         | 2.4%  | 8.5                         | 2.11% |

#### CDC Transmission Status

|                    |                |                  |
|--------------------|----------------|------------------|
| 7/27/2021-8/2/2021 | Norfolk County | Substantial Risk |
|--------------------|----------------|------------------|

#### Franklin Vaccination Rate Information

| Date of Report | Ages 12-15<br>% 1 dose | Ages 12-15<br>% Fully Vaccinated | Ages 16-19<br>% 1 dose | Ages 16-19<br>% Fully Vaccinated | Total Franklin<br>% 1 dose | Total Franklin %<br>Fully Vaccinated |
|----------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 7/22/2021      | 70% (1386)             | 61% (1202)                       | 75% (1723)             | 68% (1565)                       | 69% (23542)                | 64% (21626)                          |
| 7/29/2021      | 71% (1414)             | 62% (1227)                       | 76% (1745)             | 68% (1575)                       | 70% (23693)                | 64% (21743)                          |
| 8/5/2021       | 73% (1440)             | 63% (1247)                       | 77% (1768)             | 69% (1596)                       | 70% (23816)                | 64% (21812)                          |

### Past Four Weeks of Cases in Franklin Public Schools

| Positive Cases Week of | Positive Cases Cumulative FPS | Number of Students in Quarantine (%) | Number of Staff in Quarantine due to self or children (%) |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| N/A                    | N/A                           | N/A                                  | N/A   |
| N/A                    | N/A                           | N/A                                  | N/A   |
| N/A                    | N/A                           | N/A                                  | N/A   |
| N/A                    | N/A                           | N/A                                  | N/A   |

#### *Health and Safety*

##### *Masks and Face Coverings*

We are in the process of planning our health and safety practices for the fall. We will be opening our doors to students full-time and in-person five days a week (not including holidays) and there will be no remote only option. Our school calendar for next year can be found at this link:

<https://www.franklinps.net/district/about-us/pages/school-calendars>

School in the fall will, undoubtedly, be a much more “normal” return than the Fall of 2020. That being said, we must still employ health and safety strategies in light of the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic, particularly the Delta variant.

The policy subcommittee discussed the current Franklin Public Schools [Mask/Face Covering Policy](#) (EBCFA) at its meeting on July 28, 2021 noting that the District should wait to see what DESE and DPH might issue. This policy requires masks and face coverings for all students and staff in the Franklin Public Schools. The policy subcommittee is next scheduled to meet on August 12, 2021.

On July 30, 2021, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and Department of Public Health issued new guidance which can be found here:

<https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop.html>

To summarize the DESE/DPH guidance they are:

- Strongly recommending masking for children in grades K-6 when indoors
- Strongly recommending masking for unvaccinated staff, unvaccinated students in grades 7 and above, and unvaccinated visitors
- At-risk individuals or those with at-risk individuals at home use masks, whether or not they are vaccinated
- Allowing vaccinated individuals who choose to wear masks to do so
- Required masking on buses and in school health offices
- Highly encouraging districts to establish COVID-19 testing programs

- Apply a “test and stay” protocol in lieu of quarantine requirements for close contacts -"Under test and stay, asymptomatic close contacts will have the option to remain in school and be tested daily"--DESE.
- No minimum distancing standards.

The CDC issued guidance for communities in making decisions about layered mitigation strategies, citing high vaccination rates and low levels of transmission can mean fewer restrictions. The CDC guidance calls for masks and face coverings in K-12 schools. The CDC guidance also calls for masks and face coverings for vaccinated individuals in areas of substantial or high transmission of the virus.

#### *Hand Hygiene*

The District will continue to employ good hand hygiene strategies, instructing students on the proper washing of hands and the use of hand sanitizer at regular intervals throughout the day.

#### *Ventilation*

The District will maximize air flow within its schools through the HVAC system. Schools are also equipped with UVGI (ultraviolet germicidal irradiation) technology designed to destroy virus particles in circulating air. Additionally schools will run portable HEPA filters.

#### *Physical Distancing*

At this time, DESE guidance does not call for physical distancing minimums and prohibits districts from using distancing as a reason to not have all students back full time in school.