



Dear Weston Public Schools Students, Families, and Staff:

Weston Public Schools (WPS) expresses our sincere appreciation to each of you for all your sacrifices and efforts to support safe and in-person learning during the 2020-2021 school year. Throughout the past year, the District has adopted numerous mitigation measures to reduce potential spread of the COVID-19 virus within the school community, with masks as a key piece.

On Monday, May 17th, Governor Baker announced sweeping changes to the state's COVID-19 response strategy, and this announcement has been reinforced by guidance from the Department of Public Health (DPH), the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), and Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA). **WPS will be adapting our current policies to reflect the following changes to our mitigation strategies:**

Effective Immediately:

- **Mask Policy** - Masks are no longer required of students and staff while engaging in school-sponsored activities outdoors. **Masks will still be required to be worn indoors.**
- **Travel Guidance** - Quarantining while awaiting negative COVID-19 test results is no longer required of WPS students and staff who travel outside of Massachusetts.
- **Close Contacts** - If a person is identified as a Close Contact (has been closely exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual), and the exposure happened while both parties were masked and seated in a classroom or on the bus to/from school and distanced at least 3-6 feet apart, *or if the contact occurred outdoors*, the close contact **DOES NOT** need to quarantine. Unmasked or other high-risk **indoor** close contacts may require quarantine.

Although state and local regulations have changed, we must remain vigilant as a large number of our students are not yet immunized. Please continue to adhere to all policies around masking indoors, hand washing, physical distancing, remaining home when sick, and answering the RUVNA symptom screener.

Please consider vaccination for any eligible students, currently ages 12 and above for most.

On the following page are some helpful reminders about those ongoing public health measures:

Wear a Mask

Masks are one of the single most important tools used to contain the spread of Covid-19. WPS will continue to require all students and staff to wear masks that adequately cover their nose and mouth while indoors. Parents who prefer their students continue to wear masks outside are encouraged to have their children continue this practice while at school.

Wash/Sanitize your Hands

Hand hygiene is another proven tool used to contain the spread of Covid-19. WPS students and staff will continue to be required to exercise hand hygiene (hand washing or sanitizing) upon arrival to school, before eating, in conjunction with restroom use, in conjunction with mask breaks, and upon dismissal from school. Hand washing with soap and water will be the preferred method; however, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer may be used in some instances.

Physical Distancing

Physical distancing significantly decreases the risk of Covid-19 transmission. Maintaining a physical distance of 3 feet or greater from others reduces risk, so WPS will be maintaining a physical distance of 6 feet for all students and staff whenever possible. Distancing will also be enforced during mask breaks, recess whenever possible, as well as during physical education.

Stay Home when Sick

Early identification of symptoms combined with active decision making to remain home when sick are two of the most important things any of us can do to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Our community health relies on individual attention and responsibility. Many of the Covid-19 symptoms are similar to common illnesses, Please Do Not assume it is another condition.

When in doubt, stay home and contact your school nurse.

Symptom Screening Before School Hours

- **Staff and students will be required to complete an electronic symptom checker ([RUVNA](#)) on a daily basis until June 18, 2021.**
- Students 18 years of age and older will complete the screening form independently. Parents for students under the age of 18 will complete the form daily.

Vaccination If/When Eligible

- Any individual 12 or older who lives in Massachusetts is eligible to register for a vaccine.
- Find more information [here](#).