



Medfield Public Schools  
September Opening 2021

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Superintendent of Schools

# It Has Been One Year...

## Acknowledgement and Thank You

- Teachers, Nurses, Teacher Assistants, Administrators, Custodians, Secretaries, Cafeteria Workers and all other staff
- Parents
- Community Members
- Town of Medfield

# DESE Mask Mandate- Issued August 25, 2021

Consistent with the authority provided by the Board, and after consulting with medical experts and state health officials, the Commissioner is implementing the following requirements:

- Effective immediately, public school students (age 5 and above) and staff in all grades are required to wear masks indoors in schools, except as noted below. Masks are not required when outdoors. All visitors are also expected to wear a mask in school buildings.
- The mask requirement will be in place until at least October 1, 2021. The Commissioner will revisit the requirement in the near future to revise it as warranted by public health data. •

# DESE Mask Mandate- Issued August 25, 2021

- Masks should cover an individual's nose and mouth.
  - It is strongly recommended that students younger than age 5 also wear a mask in school.
  - Students and staff who cannot wear a mask for medical reasons, and students who cannot wear a mask for behavioral reasons, are exempted from the requirement. Face shields may be an option for students with medical or behavioral needs who are unable to wear masks or face coverings.
- Transparent masks may be the best option for both teachers and students in classes for deaf and hard of hearing students.

# DESE Mask Mandate- Issued August 25, 2021

- The mask requirement applies when students and staff are indoors at school, except when eating, drinking, or during mask breaks.
- Mask breaks may occur throughout the day. If feasible, breaks should occur when the windows are open or students are outdoors. As a reminder, meals and outdoor recess provide built-in mask breaks for students and staff.
- Masks may also be removed indoors when necessary to participate in elective classes, such as the use of wind instruments in band. When traditional masks cannot be worn, districts should consider additional mitigations, such as the use of instrument masks (masks with a slit or hole cut for the mouthpiece) or bell covers, along with physical distancing or outdoor classes as feasible.

# DESE Mask Mandate- Issued August 25, 2021

- Masks are required for any sports-related activity for student-athletes and coaches when indoors, in alignment with guidance provided by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA).
- Masks should be provided by the student/family, but disposable masks should be made available by the school for students who need them.
- By federal public health order, all students and staff are required to wear a mask on school buses.
- After October 1, 2021, if a school demonstrates a vaccination rate of 80% or more of students and staff in the school, then vaccinated individuals in that school would no longer be subject to the DESE mask requirement. DESE will provide additional information to districts in the coming weeks in preparation for the October 1 date, including how to demonstrate the 80% vaccination rate threshold.

# September 2021

Keys areas that have we addressed to facilitate our September opening:

- Transportation
- Ventilation
- Lunch
- Pooled Testing/Binax Now Testing

# Transportation

## Bus Transportation

- DESE has removed capacity limits last year
- Windows remain open for ventilation
- Masks must be worn
- Students are no longer considered close contacts as long as windows are open and wearing a mask



# Transportation

- Traffic patterns at Blake Middle School and Medfield High School will no longer be one way.
- Watch for communication from principals regarding any updated traffic patterns at Memorial, Wheelock, and Dale St.

# Ventilation

These improvements were made in August and we will continue operate in this way.

- HVAC systems were repaired and upgraded last year
  - New RTU at the HS and MS controls upgraded this summer
- Exhaust fans and univents were repaired at all buildings (belts, motors etc)
- Merv 13 filters installed in HVAC and changed 3 times
- Merv 8 filters in the univents and also have been replaced on the same schedule
- HVAC fresh air settings have been increased to 80%
- Austin HEPA air purification systems in all classrooms in Dale and Wheelock
- Classroom windows are open during the school day
- Air quality tests conducted

# Lunch, Snack, and Mask Breaks

- Lunch will take place in two separate areas within each building:
  - MHS - Outside weather permitting, otherwise cafeteria and gym
  - Blake- Outside weather permitting, otherwise cafeteria and auditorium
  - Dale- Cafeteria and gym
  - Wheelock- Cafeteria and gym
  - Memorial- Cafeteria and gym
- Snack will take place in various areas at the teachers' discretion:
  - Outside
  - In classroom with reduced students
  - In the hallway with reduced students
- Mask breaks are incorporated into the day through snack and lunch. Other 11 times throughout the day may be used at the teachers' discretion

# Testing

- Binax Now Testing- DESE sponsored program
  - Rapid Antigen Test- Results in 15 minutes
  - Used since December of 2020
  - Used as a first test for a positive pool
  - Will be used for the “Test and Stay” program
- Pooled Testing
  - DESE will fund again this year
  - Expanding the program to include K-12
  - Up and running by mid September

# Other Info...

- Cleaning protocols from last year will remain in place
- Physical distancing is no longer a requirement
- Lockers will not be used at any grade level
- No longer utilizing one way hallways
- Shields will not be used at the elementary level
- No longer wiping desks at the beginning/end of HS periods
- Free lunch will continue for the 2021-2022 school year

# Questions and Answers