

WPS COVID-19 GUIDANCE/UPDATE: 8-22-22

On August 11, 2022 the Center for Disease Control (CDC) issued guidance on Covid-19 prevention measures. On August 15, 2022 the Department of Massachusetts Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health released an update on Covid-19 matters in K-12 Schools for Fall 2022. In consideration of this new guidance and in collaboration with our local Department of Public Health, we report the following:

- Our district will focus our Covid-19 mitigation strategies to protect our vulnerable and symptomatic individuals
- There is no longer any universal masking requirement, testing of asymptomatic individuals, contact tracing, or test to stay testing in schools
- Masking is still required in school health (nurse's) offices
- Masking is no longer required on school buses
- There will be no symptomatic testing of students or staff in school
- Our schools and district are no longer required to report positive cases to DESE
- Symptomatic students with mild symptoms and a negative test can attend school and test again at home in 48 hours
- For those who test positive and isolate for 5 days, if there are no symptoms after day 5, the individual can return to school. It's recommended to wear a mask until day 10 from the positive test
- Each school has masks available for any member of the school community who wishes to wear one
- Each school has take home Covid-19 tests available for students and staff members through the end of September 2022
- We will continue to assess our ventilation systems and ensure they are working properly, as well as increase outdoor air flow by opening windows in classrooms and on school buses as feasible
- The 180 day school year requirement remains in effect and any school closures due to Covid-19 emergencies will be treated like snow day closures, with additional days added to the end of the school year if needed