



WINCHENDON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

“Working Together”

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Good Morning:

Today, Governor Baker’s office and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education are releasing their initial guidance about reopening schools this fall. The district applauds the level of thought and care that went into the development of this guidance, and share its goal of the safe return of as many students as possible to in-person school.

Over the coming days, the district will review the guidance to begin to understand the impact on the Winchendon Public Schools. We also acknowledge that these initial guidelines do not address every topic and that there will be additional guidance coming throughout the summer. The district has created a district reopening steering committee and focus groups for critical areas of the reopening plan. I am pleased to report that 70 volunteers; including students, parents/guardians, faculty and staff, and community members, will participate in the process. The full document can be found [here](#), but here are some key components:

- The medical community supports the return of our students to in-person learning with adherence to a comprehensive set of critical health and safety requirements
- Preventive measures include masks/face coverings, physical distancing, handwashing, and cleaning frequently touched surfaces
- Masks/face coverings will be required for all students in Grade 2 and above and for all adults; and are recommended for students in Grade 1 and below
- Based upon current medical research, and in conjunction with other preventive measures, a minimum physical distance of three feet has been established

All districts will be required to develop and submit three separate plans to DESE - one for return to full in-person instruction with safety requirements, one for hybrid learning that combines in-person and remote learning, and one for full remote learning. Based upon the current medical situation, the expectation today is that students will return to full in-person instruction in September; however, that is subject to change based upon how the medical situation develops.

We acknowledge that there are likely to be more questions than answers at this time, and we will continue to communicate with you in the coming weeks and months. We

also encourage you to read the full document [here](#), and if you have questions to please send them to reopening@winchendonk12.org.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we all work together to provide the best educational opportunities for our students in these unique times.

Joan Landers
Superintendent