

The Maynard Public Schools are committed to high academic standards that encourage students, teachers, and community members to achieve their personal best through lifelong learning.

MAYNARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Brian Haas

Superintendent of Schools

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October 30, 2020

Dear Maynard School Community,

School has started and we have begun the transition from the remote program to the hybrid program as many schools in the area have done. We will be fully hybrid as on Thursday, November 5 as we welcome grades 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, & 12 in cohort B back into school, and cohort A beginning the following Monday! Of course the students that have chosen to remain remote all year, will continue to be remote.

We are seeing COVID19 numbers on the rise in Maynard and in surrounding towns. However, the numbers are not what we expected. For example, currently in Maynard, the number of cases has increased, but only a small percentage are connected to the schools. Additionally, surrounding area schools that have had to move to a remote program for a short time have done so as a result of staff needing to quarantine and staffing issues, NOT because of an outbreak of sick individuals. We are thankful for this, as it indicates that most people are following the safety protocols in place. We have spent the summer months and now the Fall getting the school building and staff ready to execute all of the safety guidelines and best practices based on guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the medical community. We are continuing to disinfect our buildings, including using recommended cleaning and disinfecting products, treating high contact areas multiple times per day and completing a thorough cleaning at least twice a week, all in addition to the normal cleaning procedures that have been in place to make sure our school buildings are as safe as possible. As more and more people are in the buildings, we will need to continue working together to ensure that students are wearing their masks, washing their hands, and physical distancing. However, the most important thing you can do as a parent/caregiver is to keep students at home at the first sign of a symptom or exposure to the virus.

Our planning process has included thinking ahead about what we will do and how we will communicate with you should a student or staff member show symptoms at school or test positive for COVID-19. We want to share those with you so that you have a clear understanding of what to expect. While some specifics may vary depending on the situation, there are some common steps that will be taken if someone in our school community is symptomatic, comes in contact with an affected person, or tests positive:

- Evaluate the person's symptoms
- Separate them from others
- Clean and disinfect spaces visited by the person
- Test for COVID-19 and stay at home while awaiting results
- If the test is positive:

- Remain at home for at least 10 days **and** until at least **48** hours have passed with no fever and improvement in other symptoms
- Watch symptoms
- Notify the school nurse and personal close contacts
- Answer the call from local board of health or Massachusetts Community Tracing Collaborative to identify close contacts and help them prevent transmission
- Secure release from contact tracers (local board of health or Community Tracing Collaborative) for return to school
- Any students or staff who were close contacts will be notified immediately
- If the test is negative for someone who was a close contact of someone who tested positive:
 - They can return to school after the required 14-day self-quarantine period.
- If the test is negative for a person who is symptomatic but was *not* in close contact with someone who tested positive:
 - They can return to school once **48** hours have passed with no fever and improvement in symptoms, without the use of fever reducing medications.

For more information on COVID-19 symptoms and testing, please visit:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/about-covid-19-testing#where-can-get-a-test?>

Please contact us immediately if you or someone in your home begins to show the following symptoms:

- Fever (100.0° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills
- Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Headache when in combination with other symptoms
- Muscle aches or body aches
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Fatigue, when in combination with other symptoms
- Congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies), when in combination with other symptoms

The best way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is to keep your children home when they don't feel well or when they demonstrate any of the above symptoms.

As we move ahead, though we cannot provide specific information about any school community member who tests positive, if you receive a general letter from me about such a situation, it does not mean your child was a close contact (defined as being within 6 feet of the person for at least 15 minutes accumulated over a 24 hour period) of the affected school member.

Parents of students who were in close contact with the community member will be notified separately. All close contacts should be tested but must self-quarantine for 14 days after the last exposure to the person who tested positive, regardless of test result. Additionally, we are asking those parents whose

students are tested for COVID-19 to please report the results to the school nurse. We are working hard to understand the impact of the virus on our school community and this information is critical for us to respond appropriately.

We are committed to continuous communication with our families and will continue to update you if potential cases occur. In addition, please provide us with your feedback by filling the monthly family feedback survey linked below.

If you have any additional questions, please contact me at bhaas@maynard.k12.ma.us.

Thank you for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Haas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

Brian Haas
Superintendent
Maynard Public Schools

[Monthly Feedback Survey](#)

[Encuesta de Retroalimentación Mensual](#)

[Pesquisa Mensal de Feedback](#)