



PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02186

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August 12, 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Staff:

I hope this email finds you and your family well and staying cool during this heat wave.

Yesterday, Wednesday, August 11th, The Milton School Committee Policy Subcommittee held a meeting that was open to the general public to discuss the [Face Covering Policy](#) for the Milton Public Schools that we had in place at the end of the 2020-2021 school year. At the conclusion of that meeting it was recommended to keep this policy in place with some minor updates and review it on a bi-monthly basis throughout the year. The full School Committee will vote on this updated policy at the August 25, 2021 meeting.

We find ourselves once again facing uncertainty as the COVID-19 numbers have begun to rise in Massachusetts and nationwide. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) are recommending [universal masking](#) regardless of vaccination status for all individuals in K-12 schools and the Massachusetts Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) strongly recommends masking for students PreK-6 and unvaccinated students and staff.

As we have no way to determine who is vaccinated in our community and a significant portion of MPS students are not yet eligible for the vaccine, MPS will require all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to our schools to wear masks indoors, regardless of vaccination status. Universal indoor masking, along with several other mitigation measures (adherence to symptom screening protocols, physical distancing when possible, hand hygiene, enhanced cleaning procedures, air purifiers and ventilation upgrades) will help us to minimize the spread of COVID-19 in our schools, limit quarantines and keep our students learning in-person five days a week.

DESE is also requiring masks for all students while on school buses. Masks will not be required for any students or staff while eating/drinking indoors during lunch. Masks will not be required outdoors; however, they are recommended for unvaccinated individuals. Indoor masking requirements go into effect at the start of the school year.

25 Gile Road, Milton, Massachusetts 02186

The Milton Public School system does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, gender identity, transgender status, gender transitioning, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, pregnancy/parenting status, marital status, sexual orientation, homelessness, or military status, in any of its programs, activities or operations. These include, but are not limited to, admissions, equal access to programs and activities, hiring and firing of staff, provision of and access to programs and services, as well as selection of volunteers, vendors and employers recruiting at the Milton Public Schools. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our staff, students, volunteers, subcontractors, and vendors. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Dr. Karen L. Spaulding, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum & Human, 617-696-4812

We will communicate information on close contact protocols, potential quarantine scenarios, specifics on lunch, testing, and athletics as information becomes available in the coming days.

From the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, MPS has prioritized the safety of our staff, students, and families. We have consistently followed the guidance of federal, state and local health agencies to implement layered prevention strategies with the goal of safely having all students back in the classroom.

We will continue to monitor the COVID-19 metrics in our area and closely follow guidance from all federal and state health agencies. As things improve, we hope to be able to slowly remove layers of prevention. Until then, we ask for your patience and cooperation as we navigate this evolving situation. Masks have become a polarizing issue in communities across the country and there will be some who support mask wearing and some who disagree. Despite opposing views, we all want what is best for the members of the MPS community, and that starts with doing what it takes to keep our schools open and students learning in-person.

In closing, the Milton Public Schools [Face Covering Policy](#) remains in place with the aforementioned proposed changes. The District will review the policy bi-monthly at School Committee meetings with updates as to the current health data.

Thank you for your understanding and ongoing support.

Sincerely,



James F. Jette
Superintendent
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(617) 696-4808/4809

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