

Return to School Post COVID-19 Pandemic Generic Document in draft for DESE Work Group

Assumptions:

This outline is based on what is generally known about COVID 19 illness and its spread as of April 20, 2020. As more is known about the virus and how it behaves, through widespread testing (swabs and blood tests) identifying acute infection and/or immunity, as well as by contact tracings and community spread, there may be different concrete directives from CDC and MA DPH to guide school reentry.

Goals:

1. Protect and foster the health and safety of all students and staff in the Commonwealth with communities understanding that there is little margin of error (mistakes could lead to increased COVID-19 illness),
2. Collaborate with key stakeholders in constructing a safe reentry plan for Massachusetts schools,
3. Formulate a well written school reentry plan that is widely accepted and adopted by the entire school community, and
4. Establish trust and decrease anxiety in the re-entry process.

1. Physical (Social) Distancing in the School Setting
 - A. Reduced Attendance
 - B. Transportation
 - C. Arrival to School
 - D. Classroom Settings
 - E. Cafeteria Capacity
 - F. Recess
 - G. Specials- Art, Music, PE, Computer Labs, Library
 - H. Changing Classes
 - I. Dismissal Time
 - J. Extracurricular Activities
 - K. Field Trips/Exchange Programs
 - L. Assemblies

2. Nursing (Health Clinics)
 - A. Physical Set Up
Additional Space required to isolate ill children or staff
 - B. Staffing
 - C. Additional Responsibilities During Pandemic
 - D. Education to students, staff, families and community members
 - E. Identify Students Unable to Return to School due to Medical Conditions
 - F. No Nebulizer Treatment in School Setting
 - G. Dismissal of Ill Students/Staff

Procedures
Displacement Out of Classroom(s)

3. Equipment Required
 - A. PPE for Nursing Staff -masks, gloves, gowns, face shields
 - B. PPE for other staff; SLP, OT, PT, SPED and Instructional Aides
 - C. Nursing Staff will need to be “Fit Tested” for N95 Masks
 - D. Budget and Acquisition of Equipment
 - E. Basic Equipment other than PPE:

4. Trauma Informed Approach
 - A. Staff
 - B. Students
 - C. Expect and Need Staff to Address Increase in Mental Health Concerns

5. School Personnel
 - A. Identify High Risk Staff
 - B. Staff Who Will Be Unable to Attend School - Medical, Family Circumstances
 - C. HR, Unions- Compensation
 - D. Additional Nursing and Mental Health Staff

6. Custodial Practices/Cleaning
 - A. Guidelines
 - B. Cleaning Positive COVID-19 Areas - classrooms, clinics

7. Plans for Future Interruption in Learning

8. Programs with Additional Considerations
 - A. SPED Students/Programs
 - B. Vocational Schools
 - C. Residential Schools
 - D. PreSchools
 - E. METCO Programs

References:

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html>

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

MDPH: https://eeclead.force.com/apex/EEC_ChildCareEmergencyProcedure

MA DPH: <https://www.mass.gov/resource/information-on-the-outbreak-of-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

NASN: <https://www.nasn.org/nasn/nasn-resources/practice-topics/covid19>

WHO: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>