

Quincy Public Schools Return to School Fall - 2021



Parent Information Session, August 26, 2021

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Guidance

All districts and schools will be required to be in-person, full-time, five days a week this fall.

- During the 2021-22 school year, full-time remote learning programs will not count toward structured learning time hours
- **Only** in the limited instance where students are isolating and/or quarantining, as described in the SY22 protocols issued by DESE and DPH, if schools have the ability to allow students to join their schedule remotely, then they may do so.

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Mask Requirement

Consistent with the authority provided by the Board, and after consulting with medical experts and state health officials, the Commissioner is implementing the following requirements:

- Effective immediately, public school students (age 5 and above) and staff in all grades are required to wear masks indoors in schools, except as noted below. It is strongly recommended that students younger than age 5 also wear a mask in school.
- Individuals who cannot wear a mask for medical or behavioral reasons must provide a doctor's note.
- Masks are not required when outdoors. All visitors are also expected to wear a mask in school buildings.
- The mask requirement applies when students and staff are indoors at school, except when eating, drinking, or during mask breaks.

Health and Safety Information

Previously released health and safety requirements have been lifted (social distancing, medical waiting rooms)

- Schools will distancing students using the maximum distance possible
- Students who display symptoms while at school will be at least 6 feet apart from others until they are able to be dismissed from school
- Lockers will be used during SY 21-22
- Students in middle school and grades 3-5 will switch classes
- Hand sanitizer will be available for students and staff
- Cleaning protocols will remain in place

Academic Programs and Other After School Activities

- Classes such as music and band will resume in-person
 - Masks may be removed when necessary to participate in band class, such as the use of a wind instrument
 - Students will be distanced to the maximum distance possible and additional safety measures like bell covers and holding classes outside will be used as much as possible
- Masks are required for any sports-related activities when indoors (this includes physical education classes, and indoor after school sports activities)
- In-person after school extra curricular opportunities will continue to be offered to students throughout the school year

Career Vocational and Technical Education

Previously released CVTE COVID-19 health and safety requirements have also been lifted:

- All students will return fully to Quincy's comprehensive pathways and will continue to receive rigorous content, hands-on, as well as engaging related experiences.
- Students will fully participate in the rotation of Quincy's CVTE Exploratory Program (Freshman Seminar).
- Quincy's CVTE Program will continue to offer students real-world work experiences, including internships, co-ops, and employment opportunities, in collaboration with our community business partners.
- Students enrolled in Quincy's CVTE trades (i.e. plumbing, electrical) will accumulate related and shop hours towards their apprenticeship program.
- Our student operated restaurant (President's Cafe) and Automotive Technology Shop will re-open for customer and curriculum based integration.

Career Vocational and Technical Education

Continued:

- Health Care Technology students will return to their clinical placement facilities (Marina Bay Rehabilitation Center, Hancock Park, and John Adams Nursing Facility) to accumulate required hours for CNA Certification. Students will be required to obtain COVID-19 vaccination (due to federal/state mandate), prior to clinical placement experiences.
- Early Education and Care students will return to their clinical placement facilities (i.e. QPS elementary schools, YMCA, and private pre-schools) to accumulate required hours for EEC Licensure/Certification. Will follow any/all state/local health and safety requirements.
- Fashion Technology students will plan and implement their Annual Fashion Show in the Spring, 2022.
- Engineering Technology students (grade 12) will participate in their annual Capstone Project Presentations (Live).

Transitioning Back to School

- Principals will be sending Welcome Back Newsletters to families early next week
- Each school is available for individual tours and orientation opportunities beginning next week.
 - In order to arrange a time to visit the school prior to the start of the school year, please contact your child's principal
- Principals are working with their PTO to organize outside communities events
- Kindergarten Orientation will be held September 10, 2021 in-person at your child's school
- Bright from the Start for students entering grades 1, 2 and 3 begins on August 30
- Each school will host an in-person Open House this fall

Breakfast and Lunch Programs

As the school year quickly approaches, our nutrition team would like to inform you on DESE and USDA policies regarding this year's school lunch and breakfast program. Due to Covid-19, **all students for the year of 2021-2022 will eat for free**. We strongly encourage students and/or parents to continue to complete the free reduced lunch application each year to receive other benefits from the state, including P-EBT benefits.

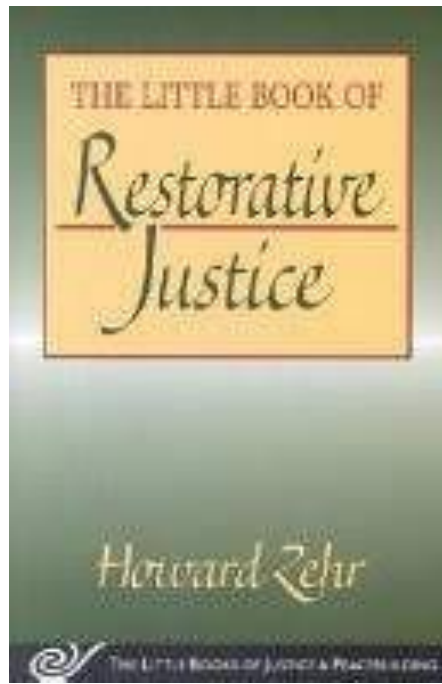
- Lunch will be held in the cafeteria (outside spaces are also an option while the weather is nice)
- Elementary students (including grade 5 at Point Webster and South West) breakfast will be served in the classroom
- Middle School and High School students breakfast will be served in the cafeteria before school
- Students will be spaced to the maximum distance possible while eating

Social Emotional Support

Creating a Culture of Care focused on Restorative Justice Principles and Practices

Administrators, Principals, Student Support Staff and Teachers are engaged in Professional Development (140 staff members)

1. Relationships-Importance of Relationships in Restorative Justice and Culture of Care
2. Basic Principles of Restorative Justice-"Doing school **with** students". Inclusive relationships across the school are a primary focus.
3. Collegial Relationships
4. Teacher-Student Relationships-Restorative tools are used to build and maintain a healthy classroom community among students and teachers.
5. Community Building Circles-A circle held for the purpose of creating a sense of belonging with a focus on building relationships.
6. Community Norm Setting Circles-A Circle held for the purpose of creating a sense of connectedness by having the teacher and students in a classroom co-create classroom norms.



QUINCY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BUILDING COMMUNITY

Restorative Justice is respect. Respect for all even those who are different from us; even those who seem to be our enemies. Respect reminds us of our interconnectedness and also of our differences. Respect insists we balance concerns of all parties. If we pursue justice as respect we will do justice restoratively.



COVID-19 Symptom list

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

Unvaccinated individuals and any close contacts presenting these symptoms should follow testing and quarantine response protocols

Vaccinated individuals who are not close contacts should follow the testing and quarantine response protocols if they are experiencing symptoms in bold. These individuals may also seek clinical guidance to assess the need for PCR testing if they have other symptoms on this list.

Definition of a close contact

Close contacts are defined as individuals who have been within 6 feet of a COVID-19 positive individual while indoors, for at least 15 minutes during a 24-hour period. Please note that the at-risk exposure time begins 48 hours prior to symptom onset (or time of positive test if asymptomatic) and continues until the time the COVID-19 positive individual is isolated.

The following close contacts are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols:

- Fully vaccinated close contacts: exempt if asymptomatic
- **Classroom close contacts:** exempt if both individuals were masked and spaced at least 3 feet apart
- **Bus close contacts:** exempt if both individuals were masked and windows were open on the bus
- Close contacts who have had COVID-19 within the past 90 days

Testing services included in COVID-19 Testing Program*

Symptomatic Testing

- For when individuals present **symptoms while at school**; individuals should not go to school if experiencing symptoms while at home
- Samples are collected at school using **the BinaxNOW rapid antigen test**
- Those testing **negative with isolated/mild symptoms can stay in school**

“Test and Stay” *Close contact testing*

- For when individuals are in close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual while at school.
- Samples are collected at school **using the BinaxNOW rapid antigen test**
- Tests are **administered daily for at least five days** from the date of exposure

Routine COVID Pooled Testing

- **Routine Pooled Testing and School-Based Follow-Up Testing:** samples are collected at school; If a pool is positive, follow-up testing at school with **either BinaxNOW and/or individual PCR testing as necessary**
- **Routine Pooled Testing and Lab-Based Follow-Up Testing:** samples are collected; If a pool is positive, **individual Follow-Up testing occurs at the lab**, without a second sample collection

***Parents must consent to participate in the entire QPS COVID-19 Testing Program in order for students to be tested under any of the three options. There is no option to choose only one type of testing.**

Benefits to participating in Routine Pooled Testing

- Students and staff who have been identified as close contacts can remain in school as long as they are tested daily
- Surveillance testing is another mitigation measure that allows the district to identify asymptomatic COVID-19 positive individuals before they become symptomatic and are more likely to spread the virus
- Allows the district and school to monitor the positive rate and make changes to health and safety measures as appropriate

Questions?