



To: NRSD Families and Faculty

From: Brooke Clenchy, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Todd Maguire, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Date: June 25, 2020

Re: Reopening Memo

Dear Nashoba Families and Faculty:

Today, Governor Baker's office and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) released their initial guidance concerning the reopening of schools this fall. We applaud 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 settings in maximizing learning and addressing our students' holistic needs.

Over the course of the coming days, we will be reviewing this guidance to begin to understand how it will impact what we do within NRSD. We are currently measuring all of our classrooms district-wide, for example, to assess how we can accommodate students within appropriate distancing guidelines and to understand what that may look like in each of our buildings. We are reviewing desks and table placements. We are taking inventory of what is currently housed in classrooms and assessing what genuinely needs to be within those classrooms and what needs to be removed. We are reviewing our remote learning process and curricular needs and diligently taking under careful consideration all DESE advice while preparing timelines for our various working groups.

We acknowledge that these newly released guidelines do not address every topic and that there will be additional guidance coming throughout the summer. The full document can be found [HERE](#) on the MA DESE Covid-19 webpage. Here are some key components:

- Current medical research cited in today's released DESE document supports a safe in-person return to school - with preventive measures in place - as infection and transmission rates are lower for children than adults.
- 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; they are recommended for students in Grade 1 and below. Schools will build into their daily schedules appropriate mask "breaks" for students.

- Based upon current medical research, and in conjunction with other preventive measures, a minimum physical distance of three feet has been established.

MA School Districts are expected to develop three separate education plans to submit to DESE prior to the start of the new school year. A plan will be created for a return to full in-person instruction with safety requirements, one for full remote learning, and one for hybrid learning that combines in-person and remote learning on an alternating schedule. Based upon the current medical situation, the expectation today is that students will return to full in-person instruction in September; however, that could still be subject to change based upon how the medical situation within our state continues to develop over the course of the summer months.

NRSD will be circulating a survey within the next week looking for valuable input from our parents and faculty members regarding their thoughts as we continue to move forward and plan for the school district re-opening in the fall. We anticipate a short turnaround time frame on the survey and hope to have as many individuals fill it out as possible.

If the current positive public health metrics hold, we believe that when we follow critical health guidelines, we can safely return to in-person school this fall with plans in place to protect all members of our educational community. We can mitigate the risks associated with COVID-19 for in-person school programs and prevent the significant consequences of keeping students out of school and isolated. It will take all of us working together to make this successful.

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 as additional guidance is released.

We look forward to re-opening our doors to begin the new school year!

Yours in partnership,



Brooke Clenchy
Superintendent of Schools



Dr. Todd Maguire
Assistant Superintendent of Schools