

LYNN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

James Leo McGuinness Administration Building – 100 Bennett Street, Lynn, MA 01905
Tel. (781) 593-1680 ~ Fax. (781) 477-7487



Patrick A. Tutwiler, PhD
Superintendent of Schools

March 8, 2021

Dear Lynn Public Schools Families,

I write to you today to share some information regarding current conditions in the community, and our LPS students' return to in-person instruction in the upcoming weeks.

We are all heartened by the improved developments in terms of COVID numbers and response in the City of Lynn. Below are some developments to take note of:

- The positive test rate in the Lynn community is below 5%, which is the lowest it has been in nearly eight months.
- The rate is falling quickly, having decreased by more than ten percentage points since January.
- Vaccines have been administered to many Lynn residents and community workers, with K-12 school staff and personnel now eligible to receive the vaccine.
- For the past month, the Lynn Public Schools has brought back groups of students for in-person learning, and has not had any COVID exposure, transmission, or safety concern arise.

All of these factors indicate that we are ready to move toward welcoming back even more students for in-person learning throughout the remaining months of the school year.

The specific timeline and details for students' return will be shared with you in the immediate two weeks. On Friday March 5th, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education voted to approve a plan requiring all Massachusetts school districts to return to in-person learning. Details of the plan are forthcoming from the state. In the next few days, we will be adjusting our re-opening plan to reflect this directive, while also ensuring adherence to all safety guidelines. **I will be proposing a timeline for students' return to the School Committee during the scheduled meeting on Thursday, March 11th. I will also be hosting a virtual Town Hall on Tuesday, March 16th, at 6pm. Information on School Committee meetings can be found on this [link](#). A link for the Town Hall will be shared on March 15th.** Above all else, our students' safety is our biggest priority. We will continue to follow the most effective mitigation strategies, including physical distancing, mask wearing, and cleaning and sanitizing protocols in any expansion to in-person learning.

From the start of this pandemic, our commitment has always been to ensure the safety of our students, staff and families, while also ensuring we provide our LPS scholars with an excellent and equitable education.

We are committed to clear and consistent communication with families throughout the ever-evolving conditions. The coming weeks will not be a departure from these commitments as we adjust to both the improved conditions in the city and to the new requirements.

As always, it is an honor to serve the students and families of Lynn, and we are looking forward to a successful rest of the school year.

Sincerely,
Patrick A. Tutwiler, PhD.
Superintendent of Schools